

FRONTISPIECE.



*Dei enim Invisibilia condito
Mundo manifesta sunt*

FRONTISPIECE.



*Dei enim Invisibilia condito
Mundo manifesta sunt*

SELECT TALES

O F

^R
Count Hamilton, ^{LA}

Author of the LIFE and MEMOIRS of
the Count De GRAMMONT.

Translated from the FRENCH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



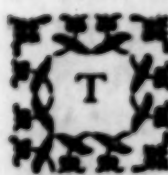
LONDON:

Printed for J. BURD, near the Temple-Gate,
Fleet-Street. MDCCLX.

SECRET



An Advertisement to the Bookseller ;
prefixed to the French Edition.

HE great learning of Count Anthony Hamilton, the delicacy of his genius, the mildness of his behaviour, rendered him esteemed both by men of letters and men of business. A great French nobleman having made an alliance with his family, was the first occasion of his going to the court of France ; the revolutions in England under James II. made him take up his residence there. The translations of the Tales of the Persians, Arabians, and Turks, were read by all the ladies both at court and in the city. He rallied the first upon their attachment to reading what afforded them so little instruction ; but in a manner so as not to offend them. One day they desired him to write any thing in the taste of these works ; the Count, whose genius was capable of any thing he undertook, let them see in a few days, that he knew how to trifle with the Muses.

Madam

Madam the countess of G . . . his sister, had got an old house with a little spot of ground in the park of that royal house, which is the wonder of the world; this house, which is called Moulineau, she made a delightful place, the magnificence and taste of the countess of G . . . caused the name of it to be changed from Moulineau to Ponthalia. It is from the etymology of Ponthalia, that Count Anthony hath made *le Belier*, or the Ram; there are a thousand little facts disguised in this work, which any body that pleases, is left at their liberty to unmask; when there is nothing of that, the tale will not be found less agreeable, it will be seen, the author knew how to ridicule with pleasantry, to praise with delicacy, and to censure ingeniously.

This manuscript having fell into my hands, I thought the public would be pleased at my presenting them with a work which hath no superior in its kind, according to the opinion of people of taste whom I have advised with about it, and if it meets with the same success as the *Memoirs of the Count de Grammont*, which was wrote by the same Author, and the only work of his which hath yet appeared, I shall not be disappointed of my hopes.

T H E

T H E
C O N T E N T S.

Volume the First.

T HE Ram.	Page 1
The history of Pertharite and Ferandine.	33
The history of the Mother of the Sheaths.	118
The history of the Thorn-Flower.	150
The history of Phenix.	252
The history of Serena.	270

Volume the Second.

T HE history of the four Facardins.	Page 1
The History of Zeneyde.	154

VOL. I

a

The

THE HISTORY OF THE

CONTENTS

Volume the First.

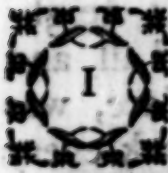
THE HISTORY OF THE	1
THE HISTORY OF THE	11
THE HISTORY OF THE	113
THE HISTORY OF THE	113
THE HISTORY OF THE	113
THE HISTORY OF THE	113

Volume the Second.

THE HISTORY OF THE	1
THE HISTORY OF THE	11
THE HISTORY OF THE	113



The R A M.

N times of old there lived a giant, who was dreaded by all about him ; his dwelling was on a spot of land encompassed by hills and rivers, the old patrimony of the giants, and which he intended should descend to his heirs, flattering himself, by a marriage which he had projected, to leave his living image in a numerous posterity. This dreadful resolution made many a beauty tremble, and how should it be otherwise ? His visage was frightful ; he lay in his boots both winter and summer, and his enormous bulk was even more supportable than his brutality. The voice of a bull was music to his ; he had a clumsy sort of a machine which served him for several uses, either cart or coach, but what he was most fond of was a Ram, of so singular a genius, that he was his first minister, had the direction of his affairs, and served him often as a

gentleman usher, and was always diverting him with some little story, of which he could tell him a thousand.

In the same neighbourhood lived a Druid, who had a palace built in a romantic taste, with gardens laid out in the finest manner, cascades of the most extraordinary kind, embellished with statues of the finest workmanship that could be procured, and a grotto washed by the waves of a neighbouring river. But what exceeded all, and was the great ornament of the place, was a young virgin, whose charms struck every beholder, but unhappily for them; for the insensible Alia so far from pitying, took a pleasure in seeing them die for her. All the art of her father, the Druid, had been exhausted in various enchantments to make her the wonder of the universe. From that time every belle has copied this brilliant model; but our modern beauties have also unhappily borrowed her cruelty.

A thousand lovers of all ages and conditions, though sure of death at the sight of her, would yet venture to see her, and every night some lover was found dead upon the ground, whom she had reduced to despair.

Maulineau, the giant, presuming on the greatness of his make, looked upon those
whom

whom this fair one had destroyed, as a parcel of weak unmanly fellows, and putting on his coat of mail, offered this beauty his heart, his hand, and his great war horse, as a pad for her to take the air on, night and morning, but at the same time told her, that he had collected a bundle of straw, and would burn the palace she lived in, and destroy the gardens, in case of a refusal; but he was treated with the same contempt as the rest. Nothing can equal the most horrid outcry he set up on this occasion; the raging of the sea, or the barking of a hundred dogs let loose, would fall short in giving an idea of it: The nymph herself, in spite of all her resolution, turned pale, when transported with rage, he addressed her in this language: O serpent formed out of spite, whose envenomed language proceeds from your cursed tongue, obscuring my renown, do I appear too *little* to have part of your bed? But it is too much to spare such an ungrateful one, I should pay too little regard to my vows, only to kindle by them that pride which flatters you; but my resentment will break out, and I will be revenged by fires of another kind.

As soon as he had spoken he set fire to the castle on all sides, whilst the nymph

herself, on her knees, begged for pity. But the Druid, her father, fertile in enchantments, caused a great river to flow round the castle. The giant saved himself on the top of a mountain, uttering terrible imprecations against the sorcerer. But his Ram raised a great bridge quite across the river, and made his master to follow him over it. The Druid opened a book, but in vain did he a thousand times turn over the leaves, that which would have been of so much service now, to his great misfortune, could not be found; his countenance turned pale, and he cried out in a fright, all is lost!

The giant then stretched out his neck, and in a menacing tone cried out to the Druid, you old fool, why do you meddle with necromancy, we will take you in your cave, and as for this daughter of yours that you set such a value on, and who is too haughty to be spoke to, I shall soon have her in my power. I am very much mistaken, or we shall find this great beauty, who looked with so much disdain on my *form and mien*, will with pleasure submit to the lot the remains of my love shall destine her to. As for you, says he to the Ram, I will give you her necklace, and to mortify her the more (for she must be thoroughly humbled) the Druid shall be your page.

But

But we will drop for a while the vain imaginary projects the giant had formed for the advantage of his confident Ram.

The nymph was all this while very uneasy, for though she seemed to breathe nothing but hatred, love had taken possession of her heart, from thence sprung this haughty behaviour, and those piteous moans her unfeeling heart caused among her lovers. This univerial conqueror, which hath made so many miserable, triumphed in her heart, and she uttered her complaints in the woods and groves, and on the banks of the rivers, which ecchoed back her moans. For she had concealed a lover, who, when her father's art seemed to be overcome by the giant, never so much as offered to come to her assistance. This grieved her so much that she could not rest; she retired to a grove, where she thought no one heard her, and thus broke out in sighs. "Fickle prince of Noisy! you to whom my heart has unhappily enclined with eternal constancy! Is this a time to be unfaithful, when this terrible giant hath cruelly attacked us? Fickle prince! ungrateful man, on whom I in vain call, and on whom my heart hath idly fixed!" At these words a torrent of tears burst forth (the resource of disappointed hope) grief drowned her charms,

and her eyes were sunk in her head; thrice she seemed at the last gasp, and thrice her pulse ceased beating, when from another grove was heard a voice. She immediately recovered, and listened to the dear accents of this once known voice.

It cried, oh! charming Alia, whose charms are engraved on my heart, leave off to accuse me so unjustly of perfidy. Can you think I can forget so much tenderness and so many charms? Adorable and constant Alia, of whom my heart hath made so good a choice, have a better opinion of me. In spite of this unhappy restraint my heart accompanies you every where. I love you more than my life, and a thousand times more than ever.

Surprised and alarmed at these words, but enraptured with this dawn of hope, she made haste to the place from whence this voice proceeded. She went with ardour, to where the voice came from, to discover what produced a language so engaging. Where are you? Shew yourself dear object of my passion; let me see you, says she; come and comfort my aching heart: What! of a lover once so tender and so dear, does there remain nothing but a voice? Why do I fatigue myself in vainly searching in this grove? Why do you re-
fuse

use to let me know what it is that so enchants me ? Why do you avoid me ? Why do you increase my pain ? Are you then nothing more than a parrot ?

Despair and melancholy took away her reason, and love turned her brain. She thought herself in the midst of the adventures of a thousand nights, for that had been the subject of her reading. She imagined herself subject to a jealous and cruel husband, who every day married new beauties to sacrifice them to his rage, and laying herself down under a shady tree, trusted herself to its protection. As she retained in her memory the recital of this insignificant history, she thought she ought to tell some tale to secure herself from death. She therefore took it into her head to give a detail of her misfortunes, which made her burst into tears when she began the history of her life.

I am, says she, the daughter of Phara-
bert, descended from a grandson of France,
whose father was Dagobert, who was very
expert in the magical art, and versed in
politics to the highest degree : He ordered
that in my infancy I should be put into a
green arbour, happy residence of inno-
cency, for he foresaw that in this charming
desert, a certain count named Philibert,

should one day make his residence ; a hero
 worthy to be another enchanter, and who
 had a mind fruitful of enterprizes, and
 that he would fix in these happy hamlets,
 after having finished his wandering kind of
 life, and so get rid of all his troubles. That
 a structure not less intricate in its make than
 the sepulchres of the ancients, should by its
 form lay him to sleep without any other
 assistance, free from every danger, and that
 in summer he should divert himself on the
 water, and ride about in a car without
 horses, which once belonged to Rosemond.
 It was for him that Dagobert, my honoured
 grandfather, with the utmost secrecy in this
 charming place, secretly hid a salutary
 charm, which he fancied would be disco-
 vered only by him one day or other. And
 now I being grown up, and a report spread
 of charms, which perhaps I had not,
 drew a multitude of lovers, and a thousand
 miseries along with them. Deaf to all their
 vows, my heart remained in perfect tran-
 quillity, despising all their vain efforts,
 while they called me in their dying agonies
 ungrateful, inhuman, and inflexible. But
 this heart then so firm, is now become but
 too sensible : My charms and my cruelty
 were alike the subject of discourse. But
 alas ! cruel love provoked at so much in-
 differe-

difference would shew its power, and triumph over my liberty in its turn.

In an obscure part of a neighbouring forest runs a pleasant brook, which passing through a fine valley, forms with its water a marvellous fountain, where my father, flattered with a vain hope, had fixed my arbour. This solitary place, consecrated to our sex, was never entered by any man, and there I often used to bathe myself. But one day as I entered this fountain half naked, a man presented himself to my sight, a thousand times more beautiful than the Sun himself.---But I see the day approaching.--Adieu, my dear Dirarrade, the sultan, my lord, will soon arise from his bed to take his morning walk. By then it is day I shall make him sensible that what remains is the best part of a very interesting story.---But victim of his rigour to-morrow on a bed of state, for the last time, you shall see your sister!

As she spoke these last words, a sweet sleep seized on her, and put a stop to this idle illusion, when her father oppressed with grief, seeking every where his idol, arrived just time enough to hear her last words, and from thence concluded that she was out of her senses.

You will please to recollect the astonishment in which we left the Druid, at the sight of the extraordinary bridge that was so suddenly built over the river. For to put his castle and his daughter out of the power of insult, he had encompassed them with a moat full of water, he therefore was surpris'd when he saw the effect of an enchantment superior to his own, as he had imagined he could make a jest of all the giants in the world, he was therefore strangely embarrassed to find out who had erected this bridge, as he did not suspect his neighbour Moulineau for a magician. He ran with haste, as I said before, to search for his book, to get some light into this event, that he might be able to destroy the bridge in less time than it had been rais'd. But when all the books he opened did not inform him, he was greatly confounded, but what heightened his affliction was that he could not find the book, in which all the secrets of his art were contained. He had restrained his daughter from reading it, which was the only restraint he had lain on her, and she had always been submissive to his will, but he feared that curiosity for a thing expressly forbid, had tempted her from her obedience. It was under these alarms that he found her in the state we left her.

her. He eagerly asked after the book so necessary to his designs. From the manner in which she fell asleep one would naturally imagine that at her first awaking, she would have addressed the Druid after this manner. Great commander of the believers! but his odd behaviour changing the object, she casting herself at his feet, cried: My father! I have lost it, and if you do not forgive me, I shall die with despair; it is not a time to conceal my weakness, or to dissemble my crime; indeed I have lost it. What! cries the Druid, you have not only disobeyed me, but you have lost that which was the dearest thing in the world to me besides yourself: How came you to lose this book on which the happiness or unhappiness of our destiny depends?

Alas in a surprise, after having kept silence a moment: My dear father, says she to him, now you know the loss, you want to know also in what manner it happened. Alas! it is true, in losing this fatal book, I have lost a treasure, which ought to be a thousand times more dear to me than life. After she had said these words, she left her father, and ran to shut herself up in her apartment.

The Druid could not follow his daughter, he was so surprised and confounded

at the confession she had made, that he did not know where he was. All this made him believe that this was not the only thing his daughter had indulged her curiosity in. In order to find out what he feared, he resolved to consult his favourite Poinçon. This Poinçon was a little gnome, the son of a fairy, or if you please a sylph, for this Druid was the greatest, the most expert, or rather master, of all the cabalists.

He went streight to the statue of Cleopatra, which was erected in his garden, and having touched it with a talisman, which he carried in a ring, it opened, and his favourite Poinçon came out. It was the most charming little creature in the world, he was covered with the feathers of a parrot, of different colours, a sharp-pointed hat, cocked up with a large diamond, with a band of pearls and rubies instead of a lace. Although he was but a cubit high, there never was so fine and noble a form, and his face was as beautiful and as aimable as the pretty Alia; but all these advantages were inferior to the goodness of his heart. He was affrighted, it being the first time the Druid received him with so reserved an air. He was at a loss for what could occasion it. He trembled, and burst into tears. Come, says the Druid
to

to him, give me an account of your conduct? Did I not commit to you the care of my daughter, that you might watch over her conduct, and you have left her to her caprices, which have undone and dishonoured me?

Poinçon was so affected with this reproach, that it struck him to the heart. He flung himself upon his face on the ground, and embracing with his little hands, as well as he could, his master's legs; he was a long time so drowned in tears that he could not speak. He at last arose by the Druid's order, and taking out of his pocket an embroidered handkerchief which his mother gave him, he wiped his eyes, and began to speak.

My lord and master, I am going to make a sincere confession to you of my fault, of which my hearty repentance I hope will merit your forgiveness. After this confession, if you do not think me worthy of your favour, kill me at one blow, rather than put me to a thousand deaths, as you do by these marks of your indignation. I in no wise forget the obligations I lay under to you, you have dispensed with my living under ground, you have invested me with a form which is agreeable to me, and allowing me all the knowledge which is given

to

to spirits of my species, you have bestowed other informations which have put me in a situation much above my companions, you have established my dwelling in those agreeable places which extend far below the statue from whence I now come out ; but you know my sovereign lord, that all these enjoyments are not exempt from their contrary evils ; for I am not visible but when you please : I must not speak without your permission, and in these fine apartments in which I dwell, I am condemned to watch night and day for the keeping of a treasure which I am not permitted to see, and besides I am not allowed to go out of the statue but when you please to open it. This residence of mine, charming I acknowledge it to be, but to me it is insupportable, because it is my prison. You have appointed me to follow every where the beautiful Abia, when I am at liberty, to guard her against all danger, and to secure her from all unforeseen accidents which might disturb her repose ; you know with what attention I have obeyed your commands ; I have observed punctually an order which hath cost me many tears.

It was in that stream, which issuing out from the cataracts of the Nile, after having run through many meadows covered with
flowers,

flowers, forms the fountain of the arbour, I there flung in haste that ivory ball, which you gave me, because I believed that the beautiful Alia bathed there, it was to augment her charms, though at the same time that appeared impossible; but I presently saw that you had another design. The celebration of the feast of Guy, at which all the inhabitants of the country are accustomed to be present, was no sooner begun, but your daughter appeared there in the habit of a shepherdess; immediately all the shepherds of note fell in love with her, followed her, often cast their eyes upon her, and after having declared their passion, felt her severity by a thousand marks of her contempt, and aversion; they took their farewells in the most tender songs, went to bed and died.

A little time after, there was a magnificent tournament in the public palace at St. Denis, where the flower of the knights of our good king Pepin assembled, in order to maintain, that the princess Hermenegilda, his niece, was the most beautiful princess in the universe. You there sent the charming Alia, accompanied by four sylphs who had decked her out, and who attended her as ladies of honour; as soon the king saw Alia, he was struck with her beauty, but the

the princess, his niece, who sat at his feet, glowed with vexation and confusion, upon seeing Alia: There was some reason for it, for there was but a small number of old courtiers, who declared in favour of her beauty; the heroes declared for Alia, the baron of Argenteuil, the viscount of Gonesse, the governor of Vaugirard, and the seneschal of Poissy, entered the lists in her favour, and carried away the honour of the tournament; you, as well as she, treated them ill; for my part, I loved them, because they were young, handsome, valiant and well made; I did not doubt but Alia would declare in favour of one of them, and that we should soon see one of these noblemen in possession of so many charms. But how was I deceived! While they deeply in love, experienced the hatred of Alia, and pined away with sorrow.

The king, by sound of trumpet, ordered them to appear before him, and give an account of the insult they had offered to the first princess of the blood, and as they did not appear, he gave orders for them to be hanged; but the cruel Alia saved them that shame, causing them to die with despair. I wept with sorrow, above all, for the viscount de Gonesse, who was a nobleman of great hopes, and one whom
you

you seemed to lament. I then repented I had cast the ball into the fountain at the harbour, attributing to that this universal hatred that Alia had for her lovers. Nevertheless, I perceived you was not content with its effects; although it had occasioned so many tragical deaths, and that there wanted yet another victim, who did not offer himself. I in no wise doubted of it, when you one day ordered me to take the form of a buck, and ramble about the forest of Noisy; I obeyed with regret, fearing there was an intention of drawing some unhappy man into the fatal snare of Alia's beauties. As soon as I had got into the midst of the forest, I heard a great noise of horns and dogs; there was a wolf, who was running along, he appeared to me, very large and very insolent, for although they pressed him very close; as soon as he saw me, he endeavoured to seize me, but I made a little jump up into the air, and he passed under me: As soon as the dogs perceived me, they quitted the track of the wolf to follow mine.

I made a pretty kind of buck, I run like the wind, I let the dogs come near me, as I had done the wolf, and when they thought they were sure of me, I made two or three skips, and they lost sight of me. They followed

followed me with a great noise : I still stayed for them, the master, who was at their heels, made them break off when he saw me stop ; I let him approach me ; I saw plainly that he would not hurt me, I went on slowly, that I might draw him from his pack ; I believe he guessed my design, for he sent back all his retinue. When I saw myself alone, I laided myself down on the the grass ; then he began to look upon me with great attention, and as it appeared to me, with a sort of pleasure ; as for my part, charmed with his beauty, his form, and his air, I could have spent all my life in admiring him. After having looked upon me, he cried out, you pretty little animal ! what would I give to have you in my menagery ? My poor little buck, continues he, you would live there in repose, free from all the dangers you are liable to in these woods ; if I was not afraid of frightening you, I would alight. He had not finished, when we heard the noise of another pack of dogs ; it was said, some bull had roused them ; they were not much out, for it was the giant Moulineau, who mounted upon his great horse, made the earth tremble under him, and filled the air with his roaring. As soon as he perceived me, he set all his villainous dogs upon me, he flung a dart,
which

which he thought would go through the tree behind which I stood; the handsome hunter was enraged at it, and having reproached him for so barbarous an action, the cruel Monlineau, who was so transported with anger, that after having looked upon him with fury; he flung another javelin as large as a lance, which went over his head, for luckily the giant is as bad a marksman as he is strong and brutal. The handsome hunter took his sword in hand, and rushing toward him, while he was leaning on the neck of his enormous horse, struck him with all his might on the top of his head, which sounded as if he had struck on a smith's anvil.

This blow stunned him, and tumbled him off his horse, though he was not wounded, and put an end to a combat, which very much frightened me; as to my generous defender, touched with friendship and gratitude, I confess, that I could not resolve to conduct him to a certain death, by carrying him to the fountain of the arbour. So seeing that he followed me, I began to run, but I endeavoured to avoid coming near this fatal fountain; nevertheless, after having run a good while, I perceived all at once that we were under one of those great trees, whose thick foliage keeps

keeps off the rays of the sun. The beautiful Alia was at that moment bathing ; I then reflecting on the death of so many lovers, who had only seen her face, thought my poor defender had but one moment to live, and I burst out into tears.

As soon as your daughter saw a man so near the fountain, she screamed out ; the sylphs who attended there to undress her, carried her into the thickest part of the wood. As for me, vexed to desperation at my unlucky adventure, I went to conceal myself behind a bush, that I might see the tragical end which I had brought on the most amiable and most honourable man in the world. But I was not long under this cruel anxiety. After looking on Alia some time, I saw him approach the fountain. Alia kept her eyes continually fixed upon him, but it was not with those looks of aversion and contempt with which she had killed all her other lovers. Nevertheless it was easy to judge that this handsome hunter found her at least as charming, and I was rejoiced to find no bad consequences attend his seeing her. It is true, I had seen an example in the giant Moulineau, who was as amorous as such a brute could be, but I always doubted his dying for love. At last this hunter spoke in a very respectful

ful manner to Alia, and said very tender things for the first time. The answers she made him had nothing cruel in them, and I never was so much rejoiced to see two such agreeable persons make an acquaintance so soon. If you are not the queen of the Gods, or Venus herself, says he, tell me, I beg of you, what mortal it is who appears with so much lustre and majesty, the most adorable on earth. And you, replied Alia, if you are not one of those kind of deities of whom you are speaking, who can you be; but whoever you be, I not only receive your homage, but promise you to receive no other, provided you are not the prince of Noisy.----Oh unfortunate! cries the Druid, interrupting Poinçon, what name is it I hear? The prince of Noisy! The man that I detest as much as I do the Ram, but go on, inform me of all that passed in this fatal conversation. It was followed, replied the faithful Poinçon, by a confession made to Alia, that he was the prince of Noisy. This confession embarrassed her, and made her thoughtful for some moments, but did not change her mind. Behold! why she did not alter her mind was, that the prince of Noisy vowed he adored her, and that he could not live without her. She told him, that he should
 come

come the third night after to this fountain, that he should gather one of the yellow flowers that grew on the borders of it, and that following the course of the river, he should go to the waters of the Nile, where she would wait for him, and then ordered him to retire. He obeyed, after having vowed to adore her to his death. And you, says the Druid to him, what did you do all this while? I congratulated myself, replied Poinçon, in having so happily executed your will, in bringing to your daughter him whom you seemed most desirous of. No, my good master, I was not culpable then, but I have offended you since, I am going to tell you how.

After having put off my form of a buck, I came with haste to tell you what had happened. When I came near you, I was prevented by the reproaches which you bestowed on me for my negligence, and not delivering up your mortal enemy to your fury, by exposing him to the sight of Alia. It will not be difficult for me to make you comprehend, that if you knew all that passed, you would kill us all three, and it was this fear which caused me to tell you that I had not found any one but the giant Moulineau, who would have killed me. I promise you I will do better another
time,

time, and I assure you that I shall have no repose till I have carried you to him who would have so ill used you. You may remember with what haste you gave out your orders afresh. As I well knew that he would come often enough without my going to seek him, two days after I turned myself into a stag, but instead of going to provoke the prince of Noisy, who dreamed of nothing less than hunting, I presented myself to the giant, who was gone into the country with his equipage. I appeared as the largest and most stately stag in the forest ; he pursued me to the utmost, and I resolved to lead him a good chase : My first station was at Montmartre, on the top of which I waited, and when he had got to the place where I was, much against the will of his elephant of an horse, he took breath, I stopt, his dogs thought me at the last gasp, he drove them on me, and I killed four of them in a moment. I then darted away to the bottom of the mountain, he pursued me with ardour, I saved myself in a quarry, half covered with brambles, he precipitated himself into it with his beast, and thought he had broke his neck ; he was drawn out with great pain, and seeing that I only trotted on before him, he wanted to have his revenge. I brought him back to Poisy, where I crossed the river ; he there
fell

fell from a very steep bank, which I chose on purpose, that if any river in the world had been capable of drowning an animal of his size, he had never returned.

At last, after I had made him despair of gaining his ends on me, I lost myself in the forest, and returned to tell you that a young man, the handsomest that ever was formed, gave chase to me, but that every time I had brought him toward the fountain of the arbour, he stopt to take another rout. You could scarcely believe me, and if you remember you told me that I must not dream about such things, and that you saw very well that the inchanter Merlin protected him. You did not shut me up that day, because you committed to me the keeping of your gardens and castle, having some other commission to give to your ordinary guards. I was charmed with this commission, by the curiosity I had to be witness of an interview which one might expect to be very agreeable and very tender. As soon as it was night, the beautiful Alia crossed the parterre, found the prince, where she thought he had waited a long while, and carried him back into the garden. I followed them step by step wherever they walked, and my invisibility taking away the restraint my presence would have

have occasioned, I heard the prince of Noisy say all that the most respectful and the most tender love inspires on such occasions; and the beautiful Alia return all that innocence softened to compassion permits. After having given up the first moments to mutual expressions of tenderness, Alia sighed, the prince was troubled at it, and asked what caused it. Alia told him, that she feared she could not overcome in his favour the obstacles and difficulties which would infallibly cross their designs. She talked to him of the pursuits of the giant and his menaces, but she said, she did not make any account of them; that he was a monster, who filled her mind both with horror and contempt, without so much as doing him the honour of hating him. She added, that although you was to love her more than your life, you would never consent to the marriage, because you had discovered by her horoscope, that she should be unhappy as long as the prince of Noisy remained among men, that for this reason you had armed her with an aversion which had been fatal to all those who had loved her, to serve as an example to others, and to deliver her from the importunity of pretenders, that he was the only object of your fears and your persecutions, and that she

knew you would try every way to destroy him.

Upon speaking these words, the beautiful eyes of Alia were bathed in tears ; the prince of Noisy flung himself at her feet, and said to her, that he was not worthy of the least of her tears, that he should think himself more happy to die at her feet, than to live for any other.

His tender speeches only increased her tears and affliction. They separated at last after having sworn mutual love for ever. Although they often met again, I protest to you by your sacred head, that all their meetings have passed with as much innocence, as if you had been present yourself, As to me who am sensible that nothing is concealed from you, when you please to know it, I believe you was informed of all that passed, and I thought that you suffered it for some particular reason. To come to a conclusion : The last day they saw one another, Alia appeared a thousand times more beautiful than before, because her heart was joyful : It was in these transports of joy, that she said to the prince of Noisy, that she had found out a method how to make them happy, but some danger would attend the execution of it to both of them ; he followed her to the castle to be instructed

ed in what he was to do. She entered it, and gave him orders not to come till half an hour after her, but this half hour ran away so soon, by the impatience of the prince of Noisy, that in a few minutes he ran with haste to the gate which appeared to be open, nevertheless he could not enter, the gate raising itself up, and then moving down again, and turning about from right to left, so that the half hour that she had prescribed him or more was spent in this vain attempt. Alia became impatient, appeared at the window, and seeing the prince, asked him why he did not enter? When she had learned the obstacles which prevented it, she went to assist him in removing it, but the same thing happened within side the gate. She returned to the window, and after having told him that he was too much in a hurry, she ordered him to stay just under the window till her return. She came back in a moment after with a book. She then in a hurry told the prince of Noisy that it must be opened only in that place where the leaf was folded, and he must take particular care that it touched nothing before it fell into his hands; then she let it gently fall, while he held out his hands to receive it; but a sudden blast of wind blew it on one

side, and made it fall on the head of one of the silver dogs. As soon as it had touched it, they heard a dismal roaring, which caused the earth to tremble ; the prince went directly to pick up the book that it might be saved ; but from that day he has never been seen by me nor Alia. She gave herself up to despair, and you would yourself have been touched with pity, as I have always been when she walked alone in those places, where they used to be together ; for after having a hundred times sought for him, she accused him of perfidy, inconstancy, and treachery, then she would bemoan his death in a manner that would pierce the soul of any one who heard her. It was about this time you conceived so much hatred against the ram that the giant had, of whom you have learned such extraordinary things, whose councils have caused so much trouble, and flung you into the embarrassment you are at present in.

I have already acquainted you, continued the little Poinçon, that by all the forms I have put on, and all the industry which I have employed, I have never been able to penetrate to the dwelling of the giant, to execute your orders, nor inform you particularly of this singular ram ; a secret power renders

renders me immoveable when I come within a certain distance, and the only permission I obtain is to return back on my feet. Behold my dear master and sovereign lord ! this is the sincere confession of the faults I have committed against you, I submit myself to all the punishments you are pleased to inflict on me to expiate them, provided I am not divested of your favour. Nevertheless as I have offended you in concealing from you things that I ought to have told you, I am now going to inform you of something which perhaps may be of some service to you. Know then that the prince of Noisy must be some where hereabouts ; for although he hath not appeared, he himself spoke to Alia to day ; although I had not known his voice, the things he said to her left me no room to doubt of it, and I imagine that it is him that hath put her in the state in which you have found her.

The little Poinçon was silent after this recital ; he flung himself flat on the earth before his master to obtain pardon for his fault. The Druid, who loved him, having given him a severe reprimand, but in a mild tone, pardoned him. He then told him that he saw very well he had more than one enemy to fear, that he was but too sensible

side, and made it fall on the head of one of the silver dogs. As soon as it had touched it, they heard a dismal roaring, which caused the earth to tremble ; the prince went directly to pick up the book that it might be saved ; but from that day he has never been seen by me nor Alia. She gave herself up to despair, and you would yourself have been touched with pity, as I have always been when she walked alone in those places, where they used to be together ; for after having a hundred times sought for him, she accused him of perfidy, inconstancy, and treachery, then she would bemoan his death in a manner that would pierce the soul of any one who heard her. It was about this time you conceived so much hatred against the ram that the giant had, of whom you have learned such extraordinary things, whose councils have caused so much trouble, and flung you into the embarrassment you are at present in.

I have already acquainted you, continued the little Poinçon, that by all the forms I have put on, and all the industry which I have employed, I have never been able to penetrate to the dwelling of the giant, to execute your orders, nor inform you particularly of this singular ram ; a secret power renders

renders me immoveable when I come within a certain distance, and the only permission I obtain is to return back on my feet. Behold my dear master and sovereign lord ! this is the sincere confession of the faults I have committed against you, I submit myself to all the punishments you are pleased to inflict on me to expiate them, provided I am not divested of your favour. Nevertheless as I have offended you in concealing from you things that I ought to have told you, I am now going to inform you of something which perhaps may be of some service to you. Know then that the prince of Noisy must be some where hereabouts ; for although he hath not appeared, he himself spoke to Alia to day ; although I had not known his voice, the things he said to her left me no room to doubt of it, and I imagine that it is him that hath put her in the state in which you have found her.

The little Poinçon was silent after this recital ; he flung himself flat on the earth before his master to obtain pardon for his fault. The Druid, who loved him, having given him a severe reprimand, but in a mild tone, pardoned him. He then told him that he saw very well he had more than one enemy to fear, that he was but too sensible

that they wanted to get at his subterranean treasure, and so he shut Poinçon in the statue to watch with more application and care for the future.

While these things passed within the castle, it is necessary to see what was doing without ; a noise was heard from the preparation for the attack, and the alarms of Alia, when she saw them approach to it ; but we must not attend to every step taken that borders too much on poetry, which cannot tell a story without it. It is true, that the amorous Moulineau had kindled some straw at the foot of the wall, where his mistress so much offended him, in hopes of avenging himself by smothering her, but then he had turned his back to run away, when he saw the sudden inundation that the Druid had caused round his castle ; but at the sight of the bridge, which his ram cast over this little torrent, his spirits revived, and if I am not mistaken, we left both of them on the bridge, at the time the giant poured out his menaces. He thought the place his own when he saw that the Druid had quitted his post to go to his library, but his ram stopt him on the bridge, as he was asking for some scaling ladders to make the assault ; he told him that the Druid had not retired through fear,

but

but there must be some feint of war concealed under this retreat, that when he had got in the middle of the place, he would not be a bit the nearer, that every place was full of warlike statues which he could animate at his pleasure, and that more than all he had two dogs of silver at his gate, the least of which could strangle an army when they were let loose. That his advice was to retire now, and that when they were in their quarters, they should hold a council of war to consider what was best to be done.

The giant who freely let him govern, when danger was at hand, returned to his dwelling as soon as he possibly could. They supped before they held the council ; and after supper Moulineau would not hear any affairs spoke of, for he had eat as much as three wolves, and drank as much as three camels could, he then flung himself into a great elbow chair, and addressing himself to the ram.

Tell me, says he, how it is that you who are only a beast can speak as well and better than me ? I will very willingly, replied the ram, you know that the souls of all animals after their death pass into the body of some animal, and return after a certain time into the body of some other man.

Indeed, says the giant, I had never imagined that, as to me, for example, adds he, what beast have I ever been? You have been an ant, says the ram. He had scarce uttered this word, but the giant who hated nothing so much as to be compared to any thing little, rose, and clapping his hand on the guard of his scimitar, Miserable animal! cried he, if something, I know not what, did not withhold me, I would make your head fly ten leagues from your body. The ram who was afraid of nothing, yet behaved as if he was so; and kneeling down, kissed the earth three times as a sign of humiliation; but seeing the giant a little appeased by this behaviour, he got up and continued his discourse.

If your greatness could read, you would soon find, that I have said nothing but what is true, but if you are affronted at its being your lot in having so beautiful a soul and so great a spirit shut up in so little a creature, the injury shall one day be repaired, by your being made after your death a dromedary, then an elephant, and after some years a whale.

The giant charmed with the lustre of his future destiny, gave his hand to his confident to kiss, set himself down in his chair, and to put away all thoughts of a metempsychosis,

sychosis, ordered him to refresh his mind by the recital of some agreeable tale. The ram after a little recollection, began after this manner.

“ Since the wounds of the white fox, the queen hath continually visited him.” My friend, says the giant interrupting him, I comprehend nothing of what you say. If you will relate your tale from the beginning, you will do me a pleasure, for all those recitals which begin in the middle do but confound the imagination. Well ! says the ram, I consent, though it is contrary to custom to put every thing in its place, but you shall have the beginning of my history first.

The HISTORY of PERTHARITE and FERANDINE.

There was a king of Lombardy who was the most unhandsome man in his kingdom, and his wife the prettiest woman in the world ; but then he was the best of husbands, and she the worst of wives ; so far from suffering him to come near her, he did not dare to look at her, yet was always grumbling that she had not children. He had a son and daughter by another marriage, who were highly beloved by his subjects,

subjects, and as much hatred and tyrannized over by their cruel mother-in-law : Although she had no tenderness in her disposition, she was so jealous of her beauty, that if by chance she heard any young person's charms mentioned with applause, immediately her anger arose ; so that her court was frequented chiefly by ladies remarkable for their ugliness. The king, on the contrary, who was the most disagreeable figure that nature had ever formed, was never so well pleased as when he saw at his court the handsomest and best made men ; but he had a great deal of difficulty to retain them there, they were so vexed to find such disagreeable objects as composed the queen's court.

The king notwithstanding the marks of hatred and contempt he received every day, was so distractedly in love with his queen, as to let her do whatever she pleased : She was absolute mistress of his kingdom and of his subjects ; and this unjust power she extended also to his children.

The princess suffered very much for being as handsome as her jealous ill-natured mother-in-law. She was shut up in a room on the top of the palace, where nobody dared to come to pay their court to her. The queen had placed a fury with her for a

governess. She was an old crooked woman, who after having grumbled all day, kept her awake all night to tell her misfortunes to her ; she endeavoured all she could to spoil her shape by habits made for that purpose. This adorable princess was good-nature itself ; so that her tears were her only resource in the midst of so many sufferings. The prince was as ill treated by the officers appointed to wait upon him, they were all chosen by the queen, to whom they were entirely devoted, but was obliged to bear them patiently as well as the princess his sister, as I am going to tell you.

The king had a cousin who was archduke of Plaisance ; this prince had lost his senses by lying one night in a castle in the midst of a wood, where he had missed his way. This castle was haunted by spirits, he pretended he had seen such extraordinary things that the fright had turned his brain. He had a son and daughter that he was passionately fond of, and there was some reason for it, there never were two such complete persons formed. The prince's name was Pertharite, and the princess's Ferandine, who began to despair of their father's being brought to his senses again. They sent to consult a famous witch, whom

C 6

they

they took for one of the Sybils ; she lived near the lake of Avergne, and stiled herself mother of the sheaths, because the entrance of her dwelling was all hung with them. Every person who came to consult her was obliged to bring a knife with them, which was to be thrust into one of the sheaths before an answer could be obtained. She told all who had consulted her on the distemper of their prince, that the children must seek the genius of their father in the same place where he lost it. The ministers opposed this advice very strenuously, they said it was sufficient for their prince to be out of his wits, without all the family becoming so ; but they could not restrain them, and Pertharite persisted in his resolution of going alone instead of both of them ; his sister would by no means consent to this, and after a great many fruitless endeavours to keep them from going, the handsome Pertharite and the charming Ferandine set out. All the court accompanied them to the enchanted castle, which they entered by themselves, but after waiting for them fifteen days in the forest, they did not return. The loss of them put all the country of Plaisance into tears. They at first concluded to burn the mother of the sheaths alive ; that attempt had been in
vain ;

vain ; for the forcerers of those days did not suffer themselves to be burnt, as at this time. The president of the council, a man of sense and experience, said it would be better to send some considerable persons with each a knife of gold adorned with precious stones to implore her assistance. The value of the present seemed most likely to procure a restitution ; the knives were put into their sheaths, for she still would have had empty ones, had they brought all the knives in the universe. My ram, friend, says the giant then, what are all these knives and these sheaths to the people of Lombardy, of whom you talked to me ? If your greatness will give me a moment's patience, replied the ram, you shall know. The witch after having locked up her present, opened an old cupboard, from whence she took a comb and a necklace. The comb was in a case, and the necklace, of polished steel, was fastened by a little padlock of gold. Take, says she to them, and carry these two things through all the courts in the world, till you find a lady beautiful enough to unloose this necklace, and a man so accomplished, as to draw this comb out of its case ; till that happens, you can never have your desire : That is all, added she, that I can do for your master's satisfaction.

The

The persons who were nominated to travel throughout the world, till they found what they were in search for, had already gone through Italy, when they declared their arrival and the purport of their journey to the king of Lombardy, who then kept his court at Mirandola, the capital of his country. He was already informed of the misfortune of the prince of Plaisance, and of the loss of Pertharite and the beautiful Ferandine. He did not doubt but his wife had all the beauty requisite to open the padlock, and amidst the noble youths who frequented his court, to find one who might be qualified to take the comb out of its case; but he could not conceive how that could remedy the calamity of the father. He made preparations for the reception of these ambassadors, who were expected to arrive in a few days. The queen employed herself in bathing, curling her hair, and perhaps in painting herself; for women, whose minds are entirely set on their beauty, think they cannot do too much to heighten it. The confidence she had in her own, did not prevent her uneasiness at seeing that of the prince: so much taken notice of, although she had tried every method to spoil it. Her governante herself (a zealous minister of the wicked designs

designs of the jealous queen) went through all the city to find out an *honest* physician to give her the small-pox. Not finding any help this way, she had a mind to pull out an eye, and to say it happened by accident. The king intending to meet these ambassadors at some distance from the city, gave orders to all the young lords to hold themselves in readiness; he was adored by them, but they dared not make their court to him, because the queen, who governed with a power proportionable to her charms, and the fondness of the king for her, did not approve of it. The prince who had a true political genius, dissembled his resentment, out of respect to his father, whom he loved with tenderness.

As he was going to mount his horse, a young nobleman approaching him, with tears in his eyes, told him not to mount the horse, which was brought for him, because it was the most furious and the most vicious of all the horses his father, who was one of the queen's equerries, had in his stables, and who had particularly made choice of that horse, that some misfortune might happen to him. The prince whispered him in the ear to take no notice of any thing that had passed, and jumped on the horse, but it cost the adviser dear, the horse saluting

saluting him with a terrible kick, before the prince was well seated in the saddle. He was the best horseman, and the most accomplished, in every respect one should see, except the handsome Pertharite. This resty animal flew into such a fury, when he smelt the air of the country, that he did nothing but neigh, rise up an end, start and kick about continually; the prince, who was full of spirit, was determined to tame him if possibly, he thought he had done it, when returning quietly in the midst of the ambassadors, and passing over the bridge of the city, the horse reared up and leaped at once over the parapet, into the river where he swam, but the prince presently got to the bank, and with the utmost composure of mind, retired into an apartment to change his habit.

The king, the queen, and all the court were in a large place upon the scaffolds, where they attended for the ambassadors to make a trial of the affair in question. The prince, who was recovered from his accident, appeared there with more lustre, than the sun at day-break, and was received with the greatest acclamations of all the people.

The ambassadors arrived directly after the prince; the queen, when they approached her

her to make their compliment, told the prince, that it was a joke for him to take so bad a time to bathe himself, and asked him if he found the water good. All the apes of her court applauded this railery, opened their villanous mouths, and burst out a laughing. This ill-natured railery of the queen continued, till she saw the princess arrive; as soon as she appeared, every body began to murmur, and to weep; the courtiers were enraged, without daring to discover it, and the ambassadors did not know what to think of it, when they saw this princess, whom they had so often heard compared to the admirable Ferandine. Her cloaths were bad, her head dressed worse, for they had cut all one side of her hair off, and to make her look still more ridiculous, they had daubed her face with yellow. She stopped a moment, and could not help crying through confusion; but her governess to make her advance forward, pushed her very rudely behind, and forced her to place herself near the queen, who was dressed to the best advantage, and shone all over with precious stones. They thought this was matter enough for triumph; and they rejoiced sufficiently at it; but the ladies of the palace to render it more complete, made a great shouting when the

the sorrowful princess was obliged to place herself by the queen.

The king, who kept his eyes fixed on the ground, was ready to die with shame and compassion, and having neither resolution to show the queen his just resentment, nor to stay, addressing himself to the ambassadors, he said, that there was no room for him who was the most ordinary of men, to pretend to the glory of an adventure, which belonged to the most handsome, and, having ordered his son to take his place, retired.

The prince, without losing time, ordered the trials to begin, they presented, by his order, the comb to the queen's gentleman of the horse, and he not being able to draw it out of the case, he examined him, when he confessed the bad designs he had, of causing the prince to be killed. The people struck with horror at his crime against his master, stoned him, in spite of of the prince's desire to save him, in respect to his son, and notwithstanding it was in the queen's presence. The padlock was then presented to the governante of the princess, who in vain flung herself on her knees, to ask for favour; she could not open it, being more ugly, if possible, than she was wicked; the prince, without regarding his step-mother,

mother, who prostrated herself before him to obtain favour for her, ordered that she should be burnt alive at the other end of the city, that she might not infect the assembly. This speedy justice was accompanied by the acclamations of all the people, except the queen's ladies, who put on a miserable and pitiful countenance.

The prince having commanded silence, ordered them to continue their trials. He told them, that no body need fear any chastisement, if they did not succeed, that he had only begun with these two miserable wretches, to give them an opportunity of confessing their crimes, that he might punish them.

The ambassadors acknowledged this speech to be full of wisdom and prudence. The queen, who had never heard him speak in such a tone in her presence, was entirely at a loss. The prince commanded all the ladies of attire to go and dress and adorn his sister, becoming her age and rank, and to do their best at the peril of their lives. They obeyed him; the princess returned so elegant and so brilliant, that it was not perceivable that they had cut off half her hair. All the men attempted in vain to pull the comb out of the case, and it was a pleasure to see the continual shout-
ings

ings of the people, when the necklace was presented to the queen's ladies. She took it at last herself, and opened it, after some efforts, but it shut again in an instant, with a noise so frightful, that she fell backwards and was carried away as dead. There were none left now but the prince and his charming sister, and the sorrowful ambassadors had already reckoned upon carrying back their comb, and their necklace, but the prince had no sooner touched the case, but the comb came out of it self, and the necklace opened for the princess without shutting again. A thousand shouts broke out at the same time, which would have continued a long time had it not been for an earthquake, which shook all the city, and was succeeded by a storm of hail and lightning, which dispersed all the assembly. But it was in vain they sought for the prince and princess; they disappeared the moment this happened. There was an universal sorrow throughout the kingdom, when this news spread. The king would admit of no consolation, and the courtiers putting on mourning, dispersed themselves to seek them every where. But that which will most surprise your greatness is, that the despair of the queen exceeded all other afflictions.

The

The hatred which she bore to the prince and princess, changed into tenderness, and a tenderness so violent, that she plucked the hair off her head, when she was informed that they were lost; she sent to beg the king to come to see her, that she might ask his pardon, for instead of contempt and aversion, which she always had for him, her heart now adored him, and her imagination represented him to her, as the most amiable, and the most worthy of esteem of all men. But the king, who did not doubt, but she had caused his children to be destroyed by some treachery although he had always had the weakness to love her, far from wanting to punish her, would have punished himself for this weakness, and made a vow never to see her.

But while all this passed at court, let us see a little what became of the prince and princess: That is very well, says the giant, for you have lead me round with a story of hurry, and changes of temper, and yet you make no such great account of the loss of these two marmosets; for I imagine that this prince was such another little impertinent prig, as the prince of Noisy. Oh! with what pleasure could I cut out his stomach, and tear out his heart, if I could find him. But the toad is gone, no doubt,

so

so far since, his treachery and the affront he put upon me, that nobody knows what is become him. What comforts me is, that you promised me that I should one day see him, yes, I did promise you, replies the ram, and then resumed his history.

This storm which had dispersed all the company on the day of the trials, having separated into two different whirlwinds, had carried the prince and his sister very far from each other, for these sort of carriages go very fast. The princess found herself in the midst of a very wild forest; as soon as she came to herself, she perceived the sad condition she was in, and all the misfortunes which could possibly befall her in this desert presented themselves to her imagination. Wherever she cast her eyes, she saw nothing but trees and rocks, and their echoes were the only answers she received when she called her brother to her aid. She then wandered about through difficult paths, when two great wolves who were seeking their fortune perceived her, and came towards her with their mouths open: She looked upon herself as already devoured, and after a great cry, putting her hand before her eyes that she might not see the horror of such a death, she lifted up the neck-

necklace there, without thinking of it; as soon as the wolves saw it they sprung backward, and run away as if a hundred dogs had been at their heels. There were also some bears at a distance, and likewise some more wolves who run away more readily than the first at the sight of the necklace. The path she was in carried her to a great road which went across the forest. In the midst of this road there were a dozen shepherds, who guarded their flocks of sheep. When she saw them, she was less fearful and doubled her pace to join the shepherds and to implore their succour, but as she opened her mouth to speak to them, the sheep seeing the necklace, ran through the forest, and the shepherds after them. Then she perceived the virtue of her necklace. She was sorry she did not know it before the sheep ran away, nevertheless this knowledge gave her fresh spirits. She went into the thickest part of the wood and endeavoured to come up with one of the shepherds, but she might run and call them as long as she pleased, they always fled before her. Fatigued with this pursuit, and going all the way through rocks and brambles, she turned out of the path and walked softly in a road less open than the first, and which discovered to her afar off,
an

an old castle ; this sight comforted and enlivened her, at a time she was ready to sink with weariness. She was pretty near the castle, when a fox whiter than snow crossed the road she was in, and turned back to put himself in her way. He stopped seven or eight times near her, and she looked at him with the utmost attention ; she could not but gaze at him, for it was impossible to see him without being charmed with him.

Oh ! cries out the giant, the white fox is come at last ; I am truly very glad of it, for I gave him over for lost, from the time you puzzled my brain with other things, though, perhaps this may be as little to the purpose. Well ! what did they do, after so much looking at one another ? The princess, replied the ram, immediately hid her necklace for fear of frightening the fox ; she would not upon any account have lost sight of him, for, besides that lively and fine air that foxes have in their physiognomy, he had something peculiarly striking in his aspect, and had something that was noble in him in other respects. She approached him to see if he would suffer her to lay hold of him, or at least to follow him to the castle, but he would do neither the one or the other, and ran another way ;

way ; nevertheless, he did not go so fast as for her to lose sight of him : At length, having followed him the remainder of the day, more closely than her strength would bear, the poor princess was ready to fall down with weariness, when she discovered a kind of a little palace, situated on the bank of a river, in the most pleasant place in the world ; the fox went in there, fear and uncertainty with-held the princess a moment, but the desire she had to follow this lovely fox, superceded all other considerations She entered then, and the white fox, who was politeness itself, having received her at the gate, took the bottom of her petticoat between his teeth, and in spite of all she could do, carried her across the court to the best apartment in the palace. He immediately set her down on a settee, for there was nothing wanting there, and seeing her dear Reynard at her feet, who looked at her with great tenderness, she forgot not only the dangers and fatigues she had gone through, but she would have left all the world to have continued always there, where we will leave them, if you please, to return to the prince her brother. If that is the case, says Seignor Moulineau, I reckon I shall never see her or the white fox any more, for you puzzle my

brain in leading me about from one place to another. Cannot you finish what concerns them before you run after another? That cannot be, replies the ram, but I can easily conclude the tale for a little while, if you are tired. The giant, who was not inclined to sleep, would not consent to that, and the ram sent on with his history.

Your excellence will be so good as to remember, that when one of the whirlwinds took up the princess of Lombardy and carried her into the middle of the wood, the other had set the prince, her brother, upon the banks of the sea; he walked there a great pace, his mind being taken up with the novelty of the adventure, and the remembrance of what had passed the same day at the court of the king his father. As he had seen there no other objects but what deserved either to be hated or forgot, he could but think of a sister, abandoned by the weakness of a father, to all the cruelties of a mother-in-law, now set against her, more than ever, by the honour she had carried away from her. These melancholy thoughts dwelt in his mind along while, as he walked to the foot of a rock, which rising insensibly from the bank, advanced into the sea. He ascended to the top of it
without

without knowing what he was about; when he was there, he had a very extensive view on every side; on the back of him, appeared an uncultivated desert; but looking toward the sea, he saw a great way off an island, which seemed to be the most charming abode in the world. He could not keep his eyes off it; it struck presently into his mind, that the princess, his sister, might be there. Presently after he looked on this thought as a meer vision, nevertheless it continually returned upon his mind. The top of the rock was covered with moss, and grass; he laid himself down upon the grass, leaning his head on a tuft of moss, and sustaining it with one of his hands, kept his eyes fixed on that part of the sea, till he fell into a deep slumber. At length, excepting his face not being bathed in tears, he was pretty near in the same situation with the amorous prince of Noisy, when he used to come to look at the castle of the Druid, after this first meeting with the daughter of the Druid. The giant, who was almost asleep, starting up at this, what, says he, this cursed puppet, after having had the insolence to affront me, does he still love Alia? I tell you, my friend, says he to the ram, if ever he return I will flee him alive, stuff his skin

with straw, and send it to his mistress. That will be presently, replied the ram, for I tell you he has no aversion toward you, but let us leave this subject, which we will resume another time, and return to the prince of Lombardy.

He looked then very attentively on this isle, the ground of which seemed to be covered with a charming verdure, and enriched with a thousand flowering shrubs. He could not help admiring it, till the darkness of the night deprived him of the sight of it. Quitting the shore, and advancing as far as he could into land, without finding any habitations, he stopped in a wood, where he found but indifferent accommodation, and passed the night as well as he could. As soon as day appeared, his first attention was to look out for a path that would lead him to his father's court, not doubting but the princess, his sister, had need enough of his presence there; but it still run in his mind that she was in this isle. This imagination appeared to him, as ridiculous as at first; nevertheless he returned to the sea shore, walked there some time, and when he wanted to ascend to the top of the rock again to see this agreeable isle, he could not find the path which had led him to it the day before.

fore. He then went about the foot of the rock to find some other way, when he heard on the other side the sweetest voice in the world; he immediately judged it to be the voice of a woman, and went through the most dangerous and difficult places, to get at the place where this continual singing was (for this rock advanced into the sea) at last having gone almost round, he descended into a more even spot of ground, and thought himself to be not above eight or ten steps from the person who sung; nevertheless he could not see her, it seemed to him as if she was hid behind some nook of the rock; he went there in great haste, with as little noise as possible, when he saw, near the place, where he wanted to go, the skin of a great fish newly stretched out on the sand. This object filled him with horror; he made some noise in returning hastily to avoid this disagreeable sight; and that moment heard something jump into the sea, which made him return, but he saw no more of the skin. Then he advanced to the place where he had heard the singing, but found no body there, and his surprise was increased when he saw the finest baths in the world: They were contrived in a grotto at the foot of a rock, which was not indebted to nature alone for

its beauty, for it was covered all over with marble, and the inside where they bathed was ebony lined with gold.

He did not know what to make of all this, although he staid there till night; he passed that night, as he had the former, lying in the open air, and supporting himself with wild fruits. This was not a pleasant life for a young prince, but that was the least of his trouble. He returned every day to the sea shore, without seeing or hearing any thing; at last he found the path which leads to the top of the rock; he made the best of his way up, and reviewed again with pleasure that charming island. He had scarcely got up, before he heard the same voice which had charmed him before; he immediately came down; and as soon as he got within three steps of the grotto, he saw this bloody skin again; he was now more surpris'd than the first time; and making a noise, he immediately saw a monstrous fish jump into the sea, and this frightful skin disappeared. He found the grotto in the same state it was before, only the hollow full of water; he put in his hand, and finding it lukewarm, concluded it was made use of for a bath; but he could not comprehend what this fish was who cast her skin to go into the bath, and who sung so melodiously.

lodiously. He returned to the place from whence the fish had jumped into the sea, and took notice, that the surface of the water had a track yet left on it, which led toward the island.

The next day he put himself in ambuscade behind the rock, which formed the entrance into the grotto, to endeavour to discover what this fish was. He kept his eyes fixed on the island, imagining that this animal would come from thence, when he saw a little boat with a sail; as it advanced nearer the shore his curiosity increased, and the object seemed to diminish; this made him go out of his ambuscade, not to lose sight of it. When it had floated pretty near the bank, instead of making strait to the entrance of the grotto, it turned itself to go on shore further off. He went to the sea shore, and saw that instead of coming to land, this wonderful creature only ranged along the coast advancing toward him.

As soon as it came near enough for the prince to distinguish what it was, he saw the finest creature in the universe in a sea shell, who holding with one hand the end of a great white sail, fastened at the other end to this wonderful chariot, made to go at its pleasure by the assistance of the Zephyrs.

The prince flung himself upon his knees, not doubting but it was the goddess Thetis who sailed upon the water, nothing so much resembled all the portraits which are made of her and her equipage, except that this Thetis he now saw was not so fair nor so naked as they generally represented that goddess.

The prince of Lombardy still upon his knees before this divinity, would have kept a hundred eyes fixed on her if he had had them; she stopped just opposite to him, for what reason he could not tell, if it was not that the attention of the prince and his person were not displeasing to her. He soon perceived he had lost his liberty, for admiration and love had entirely took possession of him at the same time, and so desperately, that he was all in a maze, and sweated very much. He took out his handkerchief to wipe his face, and in pulling it out, he let the comb and its case fall. This beauty no sooner perceived it, but she set up a great cry, and approached as if she was coming on shore; but the prince all in confusion, that a thing so unbecoming a hero, should come out of his pocket, flung himself immediately upon the ground quite provoked at this indignity. She then set up a cry more shrill and louder than before,

fore, and without any ceremony turning her back, sailed toward the island, and disappeared. He was sensibly affected, all his desires centered in this island, and not seeing any boat to carry him thither, he resolved to attempt the adventure of Leander. He began then to undress himself for this trial, when he heard on the top of the rock cries and groanings, such as dogs make when they are sick, he lift up his eyes and saw the white fox, who sitting up on his hind legs, continued his cries, and made many motions with his fore paws toward the island.

The prince looked on him attentively, while a little boat which was sent from the island at the cries and signs of the white fox, came with full sail toward the shore, the fox descended, and as soon as he saw the prince, he gave two or three leaps for joy, and put himself in a posture to kiss his hands, and to lick his feet; but the prince, who from the first sight loved and esteemed him, would not permit it.

While these civilities passed on both sides, the boat came on shore; the white fox made a sign to the prince to take up his clothes that he had pulled off, and to enter with him into the boat (this was what had been so ardently wishing for) but be-

fore he arrived at the place where he hoped to see his goddess again, the indignity of the comb running in his mind, he took it out of his pocket in anger, and went to fling it into the sea, when Reynard set up a dismal cry, and taking him hold by the sleeves, held his arms with all his might, and would not let go his hold, till the prince had put the comb and its case in his pocket. The boat set off with them, and sailed of its own accord, but they had not got above twenty paces from the shore, when they heard a noise of horses on the shore they set out from. A man on horse-back, who seemed to be followed by many others, advancing to the brink of the sea, bent his bow, and with an arrow pierced the white fox quite through. He fetched a great sigh, and casting his eyes, with a sad look upon the prince, shut them as if he was never to open them more. The prince was as much shocked, as if the arrow had wounded himself; and without attending to any thing but his griefs and resentment, he flung himself into the sea to revenge the death of poor Reynard. He was soon on shore, but found nobody, and was grieved at the disappointment of his revenge, by missing the track of the murderer on account of the great number of rocks,

rocks, which lined the banks and prevented his pursuit. He returned to the shore again to endeavour to regain the boat, and to see if Reynard was now in a state to be assisted, but it was all to no purpose. All had disappeared on the sea as well as the land. The hopes of the prince with all the flattering ideas of approaching happiness which he had formed, vanished at the same time, and he found himself on the shore, attended by no other company but grief and despair.

At this part of the recital made, the giant Moulineau desired the ram to leave off, and perceiving himself more inclined to sleep, than to hear any more of this history, he undressed himself, called for his boots, and went to bed.

The ram did not fail to attend his master when he arose, and after having made his court to him, by some encomiums on his fine mien and agreeable accomplishments, he told him that he had made a tour in the night, and had examined the situation of the enemy, and having examined the fort very closely under favour of the night, it appeared impregnable by force, and much more so by famine, because the Druid, who commanded the elements, would find means to subsist in spite of all their efforts

to the contrary, and he saw that he laughed at every thing that had been done hitherto, therefore his advice was to endeavour to surprise him with his daughter. By what stratagem ? says the giant. Why answers the ram, your greatness should let him know that you are sorry for what resentment you have hitherto shown, that you have too much tenderness for his daughter, and too much respect for him, to persist in conquering them by force of arms ; and being more willing he should be indebted to your love and services for a peace, of which you are desirous, you will order your troops to retire, and leave him at full liberty, on condition nevertheless in consideration of the expences of the war, and to recompence my services, the pretty Alia with her snowy white hands shall gild my two horns and four feet, with the same gold which the Druid, her father, keeps under the statue of Cleopatra. Ah ! says the giant, what is that you say, that you want to be gilded ? Your greatness is too much in a hurry, replied the ram, don't you see that as soon as you have sent me as a passport, I shall be near the Druid, and as his enchantments depend upon his life, I shall take my opportunity to thrust my two horns into his belly, and having killed him, nothing will be

be more easy than for me to open the gate of the castle, and so make you master of his daughter and all his treasures. The generous Moulineau did not oppose a project so full of blackness and infamy, he would only make some little alteration that the ram might not have the honour of it alone. He imagined then that the better way to deceive the Druid would be to send a herald instead of a trumpeter. The ram appeared in ecstasy of admiration at this instance of prudence and vivacity. The affair being resolved on according to this last advice, while the herald was a getting ready, and they were making out his dispatches, the giant desired his favourite to resume the history of the white fox, which he did after this manner.

The prince remained alone on the sea shore, as I have already told you, he had never had his mind full of so many different agitations, nor his heart so penetrated with tenderness and affliction. He could not resolve to quit those banks on which he had been witness of so many extraordinary events; the fox, the nymph, and the fish, occupied his thoughts by turns, without being able to comprehend what was become of them. All that he could tell was, that he never felt so much love for any one

as for this nymph, so much horror as at this fish, and so much friendship as he bore to the memory of the unfortunate fox. The approach of night and some flashes of lightning which threatned an approaching storm, interrupted his revieres, and obliged him to seek a place where he might get under cover. He did not know of any place more commodious than the grotto of the baths, it appeared to him illuminated with a great number of lights, and when he was near it, he heard the same voice which he had heard twice before ; he moved along as softly as he could to the entrance of the grotto ; he then stopt short for fear of interrupting the sweetest voice he had ever heard ; he was so near her and so attentive to the words of the song, that he did not lose one word of it ; the purport of which was : “ Prince, for whom I feel the darts of a new fire, if you would not have them unhappily extinguished, favour me with a few combings with your comb, when you find me in the water ; and though nothing is more fine than my skin when I bathe, if you love me burn it.” These words flattering to his hopes, though obscure, so increased his curiosity, that he hastily entered the grotto, but resolved, if he found the charming singer, only to execute half her will ;

will ; to comb her with great nicety, but not to burn a skin which must be the finest in the world, since she had said so. Besides he had a presagement that the divinity of the other day might be the same with this singer. The singing ceased as soon as he entered the grotto, which was illuminated with an infinite number of lights fixed in sheaths of ebony and gold, as was the bath, and each of the chandles was in the form of a knife half out of its sheath. This kind of illumination surprised him, but he was more so when he saw the bath covered with a pavilion of white sattin laced all over with sheaths embroidered with gold, he examined every thing with attention and surprise, when he heard somebody under the pavilion utter a sigh, and then these words.

“ Prince, I am her that you love, and she that loves you, do every thing that I tell you, however difficult it may appear ; be not afraid in any adventure, as it may cause you to lose me for ever, if when this pavilion opens you should discover the least fear.” Me ! fear ! cried he. In a moment the pavilion opened, and he had liked to have dropt down dead at the object which presented itself to his sight ; a head of a crocodile with an open mouth appeared out
of

of the bath, and seemed to advance toward him. He did not stir, but he sweated great drops, and his heart was in a palpitation. Nevertheless he kept his eyes fixt on this frightful head, but having shut its mouth, it lifted it up, and discovered the finest visage that ever was seen, and then he knew it to be the nymph whom he adored. This head however which lifted itself above the nymph's, as a kind of ray, had on an ugly head-dress, and managed its front, &c. so extremely well, that there was not a hair belonging to her to be seen. It did not signify, all the horror of the prince dissipated when those fine eyes turned toward him, and falling upon his knees to adore her in the most respectful manner; he was just going to speak to her, when the nymph thus addressed him: O prince, what are you doing? The moments are precious, why don't you comb me? Comb her! says he to himself, ah! how? The nymph appeared irritated at this delay; he then took his comb, and thinking to pull it out of its case at once, he perceived with surprise that it would only come out by little and little, and that not without great difficulty. But in proportion as it came out, the head of the crocodile turned itself back, and discovered the finest hair in the world. When
the

the comb was half out, the head disappeared, and the prince then saw the nymph in all her charms ; the transports of joy which he felt gave him new vigour to draw out the comb, believing she had need enough of being combed after having borne this wretched head. He saw that in proportion as the comb came out of the case, the nymph came out of the water. Snow or alabaster would have appeared yellow near that object who now presented herself to his eyes, but this dazzling whiteness was nothing yet in comparison of the graces which accompanied all these beauties : Her shoulders and the half of her arms were out of water ; and it was worth while to see what efforts the prince made against his comb in favour of the rest. But the nymph said to him, it is enough, let it alone, your comb and its case, and burn my skin directly. Me ! cried he, I burn your skin ! I had rather that my skin, body, and all the world too, should be reduced to ashes than this beautiful skin should be but only scratched by him who adores you. I do not doubt your love, answers the nymph, but this is not a time to waste in niceties, the only question now is to obey me ; if you are disappointed now you lose me for ever ; for know that I am not to be possessed

fessed by any one but him who shall burn my skin. The prince could not resolve to put it in execution, and while pity, love, and obedience disputed in his heart, the nymph bid him adieu : The pavilion shut and enclosed her in it, and all the lights went out.

Then the prince repented he had not burnt some little part of this fine skin, to which he should have done a little harm ; it is true, but then he would have received a very great benefit. He was resolved to repair his fault the first opportunity, and to hinder any person preventing him, he placed himself at the entrance of the grotto to wait there for the day. A moment after he got there a new light struck out, he believed it was the grotto lighted up afresh ; but it was a fire that was kindled under the further trees of the forest which extended toward the river, he run to take a firebrand from it, when at the first step that he made, he saw the skin of a fish : The same horror seized him at this view as before, and he was provoked to meet this frightful object again ; he took it up, and transported with anger, cried out : For thy detestable skin which bears so little resemblance to that of the nyinph I adore, you shall be burnt, and running with all his might toward the place
where

where the fire was, he saw a woman sitting down, who no sooner perceived him charged with this frightful object, then she set up a great cry, and ran quite frightened to the thickest part of the forest. The prince cast the skin into the fire, which as soon as he had done, you would have thought a mine charged with a hundred thousand weight of powder had been blown up, the crash was so frightful. After this exploit he seized on a firebrand, and returned with all diligence to his post; his firebrand was useless, he found all the candles lighted again, the bath full of water, but he neither saw the pavilion nor the nymph; he began to despair, not doubting but some lover less tender, after having combed and burnt her sufficiently, had took her away with him for his recompence.

He went like a madman to run after her, without knowing whither he was going; he roved up and down the forest without seeing any body. The day began to break when he got to the place where the fire had been kindled, he wanted to see if any thing remained of that frightful skin, which had caused so much noise, but there was nothing left but the ashes; but how was he surprised to find the necklace just by! This sight gave him joy, not doubting but the princess

princess his sister was the person who was preserved in the wood, he made haste to the place from whence he had seen her run, without giving himself any trouble about the necklace; and met her returning back in haste. It would take up too much of your time, if I was to tell you the mutual joy there was at their meeting, their caresses, and the tender expressions that passed between them; they did not omit to tell all the uneasiness they had felt upon each other's account. They sat down at the foot of a great tree to relate all that had befallen them. The prince having related all that had happened about the nymph and the grotto, forgot, by good fortune, that which had happened to him with the white fox, finished his tale, and it was well, for the princess having related her misfortunes to the place where we left off, pursued the thread of her story in this manner.

O! my dear brother, if you had known the charms of this fox, it had been impossible but you must have loved him, his cares and his diligence concerning me had something in them that was supernatural, he seemed to divine my thoughts so well, as to prevent my wishes; I speak nothing but the truth, when I say that I wished

ed

ed never to be separated from him, I was so much afraid of it, that my first care was to hide from him my necklace, which had caused all the beasts to run away. The little palace where we were was embellished with gardens, grottos, and fountains, the fox conducted me thither, when he imagined that I had an inclination to walk, and in these walks, although he could not speak to me, he understood all that I said, and found means to make me comprehend, that he was transported with joy at the good will I bore him; nevertheless he seemed to me to ask something by his looks and by his suppliant behaviour; I was very much vexed at not being able to find out what he wanted of me, for I would have given him my life, at last it was cleared up to my unhappiness, I had hid the necklace in a bush at the end of the garden, the white fox had perceived it in one of our walks, and far from being afraid of it, as the other beasts were, he quitted me, and gave a jump upon it; but as soon as he had touched it, the necklace closed with the same noise it had made in the hands of the queen: At this the poor fox started back, and then leapt over the garden wall, and I have never seen him since. I went to take up this hateful necklace, and which I should have

have let remain where it was, if I had not remembered it was necessary for me in the woods to guard me against other beasts. From that fatal day, although I have wandered incessantly through the woods, rocks, and precipices, with infinite pains, the greatest of my misfortunes has always been, that I could not find again my faithful and esteemed fox. Night came upon me suddenly yesterday at the place where I had lighted this fire, near which you frightened me with this horrible skin, and as soon as I got rid of the surprise, which the terrible noise which I heard, as I went from the fire put me in, I returned as fast as I could to recover the necklace which I had forgot in my fright.

After finishing her tale, the princess begged of her brother to go with her to this place, which he complied with, but their search was to no purpose; she was not so vexed about it, as she had been before the meeting with her brother, because his presence protected her against those dangers, the virtue of the chain had hither done; and reckoning upon the complaisance and friendship of the prince for her, my dear brother, says she to him, squeezing his hand and weeping, I acknowledge to you the greatness of my folly, I cannot live
without

without this white fox, and if you will not be so good, as to accompany me to seek him every where, I shall die with grief.

The prince of Lombardy could not forbear weeping, when he thought what grief his sister would feel, when she knew the fate of poor Reynard, and not willing to give her any uneasiness, he mentioned nothing of it to her, and promised her every thing she desired, provided she would spend the rest of the day on the sea shore. The princess could scarcely be brought to consent to it, so desirous was she to go to search for the white fox. The grotto of the baths was the place she proposed to search for him in, after they had looked for him all thereabouts. Upon entering there the princess was astonished at the wonderful things she saw there, although her brother had acquainted her before with them; and while she was employed in viewing them, the prince climbed up to the top of a rock, and looking round about him as far as he could view, both on sea and land, but neither sea or land offered to his sight what he sought after. This place seemed as if made on purpose for meditation, so that the head of the crocodile returning on his mind, and the idea of the nymph succeeding it, made him burst out into this exclamation.

What

What is become, said he, of that adorable figure I saw under so many different forms! And what are become of those favourable sentiments she so generously avowed for me! What! because I would not burn her skin, she disappeared; but, cried he, all of a sudden, supposing I had burnt this horrible skin, what would she have said! This thought made him recollect himself as from a dream, and convinced him of his first error; yes, continued he, this skin was what she wanted to get rid of. Upon my word, says the giant, I should have been mistaken, as well as him; how comes it, that this stupid toad did not tell him that it was her other skin? But finish your tale, for to speak freely, I begin to be a little tired.

The prince, says the ram, persuaded entirely by the new reflections which he made, that he had performed a part of this nymph's orders without so much as dreaming of it, could not comprehend for what reason she did not allow him to perform the rest. For example, said he, in taking the comb, and pulling it out as easily as on the day of trial; if this queen of my heart was here, I would comb her better than ever she had been combed all her life. Just as he had said these words, he thought he heard some
body





body crying out in the wood, and going toward the place from whence the cries proceeded, he saw a woman run very swiftly to save herself from a man on horseback who pursued her ; although he was at a great distance he perceived the man to have a bow in his hand, and concluding him to be the murderer of the white fox, and the woman whom he pursued to want immediate assistance, he ran into the wood. The cries of the woman were his guide, for he had lost sight of her as he came down from the rock, the desire of assisting her and revenging the death of the white fox, seemed to have given him wings, but he would soon have been up with them, if he had not made quite so much haste. The difficulty of the paths had caused the woman to fall down, and the man had alighted, taken her in his arms, and was going to lift her on his horse, when the prince arrived. The beauty of her person struck him at first sight, but he was prodigiously surprised when he found her to be the queen his mother-in-law, not knowing her disposition was so much altered for the better, the remembrance of her cruelties and hatred against his sister and him, made him begin to repent of his coming to her assistance. Nevertheless being of a gene-

rous disposition, he disengaged her from her ravisher, and clapping his hand to his sword, he was going to revenge the injury done her, and the death of his friend the white fox, had not the queen with-held him, telling him it was the archduke of Plaisance : He was in no doubt of it after he had examined him, for he was the most savage archduke in the world. His beard was long, his hair hanging about him, his looks wild, and his cloaths all in tatters. The queen falling upon her knees, embraced the prince, asking his pardon for the injustice she had done him, and conjured him to come with her to the assistance of the king her husband, whom this cursed archduke had wounded with an arrow. The prince transported with anger at this melancholy news, returned to kill him notwithstanding his madness, but he had remounted his horse, during this discourse with the queen, and was in search of some new adventure. While the queen and the prince went on, in great haste toward the place where the king was, she told the prince how her heart had been changed on a sudden toward all the royal family ; that the king her spouse not liking to be with her, had left the court to seek his children ; that grieved at the departure of her husband,

band, she had followed him without equipage or attendants, but not being able to find either husband or children, she had consulted the mother of the sheaths, who had conducted her to the island of sheaths, where she had seen the most beautiful but unfortunate princess in the world, since she was obliged by an enchantment every day to take the form of a marine monster; that the day she came a great skin appeared before her, which it was impossible to withstand; that the horror of it was worse than a thousand deaths, and that nevertheless she was forced to wrap herself up in it when she flung herself into the sea.

The prince transported with admiration and joy could not forbear embracing the queen when she came to this part of her story, and falling on his knees, in his turn, he conjured the queen to conduct him to the island where this adorable princess was. I sought after you for that purpose, replied she, but you luckily met me, but still we have done nothing without we can find your sister, for on her being present as well as you, depends the safety of the most valuable life in the world. Of whose? said the prince, in a fright, the white fox's, replied the queen, whom we shall never more see alive. The beautiful queen could not

refrain from tears at the very thought of the death of the white fox, and thus she went on : Alas ! this poor fox used to visit us from time to time, and charmed us with his behaviour. Yesterday he made a sign for the shallop to be sent from the island, I was on the bank waiting for it, the enchanting creature walked there along with me, but he would not stay till its arrival, for all on a sudden, as if he had awoke out of a dream, he gave a great scream, and glanced from the plain into the sea, under the most frightful form that ever was seen. I lamented him, but I had other subjects of grief when the shallop arrived, and I saw the poor white fox wallowing in his blood at the last gasp. At this sight I made a thousand moans, and taking him in my arms, I carried him gently to the palace of the sheaths, where he is attended as if he was in the king's your father. The surgeons judged his wound to be mortal, but the governess of the island interested herself in his favour, and fell upon her knees to the queen of the oracles ; I listened, and heard her say, that if I could bring the prince and princess of Lombardy in twenty-four hours into the island, the white fox would be saved, that I had nothing to do, but to go into the shallop, which would
 carry

carry me to this shore where I should hear some news of them. I landed yesterday in the evening, and roved through the forest to find you; but how was I surprised to find the king here. I was transported with joy, he was going immediately to run from me. Perceiving his intention, I flung myself at his feet, and said so many things to convince him of my repentance and change, that he yeilded to that tenderness which he always had for me; nevertheless he said he could not rest where I was till he had found his children. Then I told him that I was in search after you both, and that an oracle had told me I should find you; he believed me; then I learnt of him what I am going to tell you. He told me that the archduke your father having escaped two or three days ago from those who had the keeping of him, run through the fields, and shot all he met with arrows. This morning as we began to ramble in the forest to seek for you, the archduke, who unfortunately followed us, shot an arrow into the king's shoulder, and with another he had fixed in his bow was going to kill him, but he stopped after having some time fixed his eyes on me, and I judged he would treat me in another manner, for he came right upon me to seize me and put me on

his horse. This fright gave me so much strength and swiftness that he presently lost sight of me. As he had alighted, the time he lost in remounting his horse had given me greatly the start of him, nevertheless without your assistance I had been in his power.

This relation stopt just at the place where the king was wounded, but they could not find him there ; this was the cause of fresh alarms. Pity on one side, and duty on the other, directed them to lay aside all other uneasiness and to search after him ; but love more prevailing than all other regards opposed it. They wished then all kind of happiness to the king, in whatever place he was, and set out in all haste toward the grotto of the baths, to take thence the princess, and then sail to the island of Sheaths. Upon entering the grotto, they found the princess sitting in despair, holding the head of the king her father upon her knees, and washing it with her tears ; she thought he was dead, but he had only swooned away. His eagerness in running after the person who had wounded him, and who wanted also to ravish his wife from him, and more than all the loss of blood had so weakened him, that with all these things together, it was as much as they could

could do to drag him to this grotto to seek for further help ; his weakness and surprise had made him lose his senses. Your greatness will have the goodness to imagine to yourself the griefs, cries, and lamentations of the son and the wife, when they saw the king in this state, so that I need not trouble you with them. They brought him to his senses again in the same manner as the heroes, and pretended deities of romances generally are, by flinging cold water on them. They stopped his blood with some gauze, and then raising him up they carried him to the shallop in the island, which had the civility to come and lie along that part of the shore nearest the grotto. As soon as they were settled the princess learnt from her mother-in-law's own mouth, the sad adventure of her dear fox. Upon hearing of this misfortune her grief vented itself a thousand ways : She would have flung herself into the sea, or at least have died away with the affliction of it, but they prevented both, and found means to compose her mind a little, by telling her that when she came near the dying fox, he would recover to a wonder. There is nothing so agreeable to a person in love as to be able to give life to the object of their tenderness. Although the boat went like an arrow out

of a bow, it seemed to her not to move ; her impatience was at last satisfied, they came to shore, landed and went directly to the palace. We will leave them, if you please, to transport ourselves where the archduke ----- Oh ! what go to take a walk with the archduke, said the giant, I absolutely forbid you to quit this island till every thing there is finished. Just as you please, replied the ram, and so he went on with his story.

The white fox lay upon a little bed near a good fire stretched out at length, his eyes closed and his body entirely motionless ; but at the first scream the princess gave he opened his eyes, and collecting, as soon as he saw her, the little strength he had left, he looked upon her as tenderly as a fox could do that was in pain, and wagged his tail though but weakly. She flung herself along upon the ground near him, but the governess of the island, who had not sent to search for her to make her lament, took her in her arms, and having raised her up, what do you do ? says she, the business is to cure the fox, and not to bemoan him. The king of Lombardy, languishing as he was, had acted the same weakness, as every body had, at the sight of this amiable beast, and during the discourse of the governess,
he

he continually wept, and felt his pulse. The governess took him into an apartment, and while he was under the surgeon's hands, she addressed herself still to the princess, what makes you delay, says she to her, to relieve your dear Reynard ? his life is in your hands, and as soon as you have put the necklace about him, he will be better than ever, but I must inform you that you have but a few moments to do it in. It was desperation to the highest degree for her to know, that the health of her dear fox depended upon the necklace which she had lost; as soon as it was known there was a universal lamentation; all the assistants cried out, the necklace is lost ! and a thousand voices issuing all at once from a thousand sheaths with which the chamber was ornamented, joined in this concert, and all in different tones, cried out the necklace is lost !

The king of Lombardy, while the surgeons were probing his wound, asked them what horrible noise it was that he heard ? the surgeon who had dressed the wound, returned and told the king what it was ; what a noise is here, says the king, about a necklace. Here, says he bluntly, here is one that I have found this morning in the forest, I wish it may be that which they are

regretting, for then no doubt they would cease this intolerable noise; one may judge of the pain the king suffered in the probing of the wound, by the ill humour he was in, when he sent the necklace to the succour of this same fox, who appeared so amiable to him. When the surgeon appeared with the necklace, the poor sick fox was at the point of death, and the princess could have killed herself enraged to see so many sheaths without finding one knife. She took the necklace with an air, which shewed her folly sufficiently, and put it readily about the neck of her dear Reynard. Immediately he stretched himself, and extended himself so as to be no more a fox, but the most charming of men. This change did not at all diminish the tenderness of the princess; she was almost out of her senses with joy and admiration; she was at a loss how to behave before him, who a moment before was that dear fox, whom she favoured with her innocent caresses, without constraint or scruple. Confused and looking upon the ground, she went out of the chamber the moment they carried the clothes to the handsome Pertharite, for without doubt your greatness knew long ago that he was the white fox.

The

The handsome Pertharite was hardly dressed, but he run to find his beautiful princess. How great were their transports in conversing together, and more particularly the princess's, in learning who he was, and that he adored her. After having received the compliment of those, who had interested themselves in his misfortune, he went to pay his duty to the king of Lombardy.

The prince who was not easy at the palace, not seeing his beautiful nymph there, went out directly, and was ignorant of what passed there; he was returning thither sorrowful and cast down, having roved to no purpose about the island, when the handsome Pertharite was going out to look for him. They looked at one another, embraced, and said in a few words what they were both of them interested in. Pertharite turning himself toward the governess of the island, who was present the moment he met with the prince of Lombardy, desired her to have pity on the disquiet of this prince, and the sufferings of Ferandine. Alas! replied the prince, suspend for a moment your pity for Ferandine; it is the beautiful enchanted nymph that we must apply to, to deliver her from those dreadful evils she suffers. They are

still greater than you think for, answered the governess, nevertheless her relief depends upon you, if you are still in possession of your comb. Immediately he took the comb out of his pocket, and the governess recollecting it, said well! now you must go and comb the nymph whose ease you have so ardently desired. Do you assure me that you will do it? Do you doubt it, replied he? yes, I do assure you that I will go immediately to the place where this unfortunate enchanted nymph is. Softly, says the governess, and if after you have re-established her in all the lustre of her charms, and in all that sweetness which attended her, when her mind was at ease, she would oblige you to espouse the charming Ferandine, Pertharite's sister, would you consent to it? No, cries out the prince, in a great passion, I would die sooner. But, replies the governess, if that is the price of setting her at ease, what would you do? Let us run, says he, and deliver her out of her troubles that she may owe her tranquillity to me. I would freely pay my life without regret for that. Come then, says the governess, come, comb her if you dare. At these words she took him accompanied by a great number of people, to the door of a great hall, which opened as soon as he

he

he approached it. But how was he surprised when he saw in the midst of this hall, the unfortunate nymph, sitting in an armed chair which appeared all on fire. Her neck and arms were half uncovered, and by that means he knew her again ; for her head was enveloped in flames, which served in the room of hair. Look, says the governess to the prince, see what a situation you have brought the princess into by freeing her from the head of the crocodile and the skin ; go comb her. He would not be bid twice, though the attempt was difficult. He pulled out his comb, and flung himself directly into the hall. He had scarce put his hand with which he held the comb into the midst of the flames, but they went out, and the nymph more fresh than aurora, and more brilliant than the morning star, stretched out her hand to him ; he fell upon his knees to kiss it. Then the handsome Pertharite entering into the hall, which had recovered its natural coolness, flung himself on the nymph's neck, who on her part embraced him with tenderness. The sweet names of brother and sister which the prince heard, suppressed those motions of jealousy which were rising in his heart, and he was transported with joy to find that his divine
nymph

nymph was the charming Ferandine, whose hand he was about refusing, and whom he now flattered himself he should soon be in possession of. He could not persuade himself that his happiness was real; his astonishment did not cease neither, when he thought of this beautiful creature whom he had adored under so many different forms, being the celebrated Ferandine, and that the handsome Pertharite, in the shape of a fox, had been so passionately beloved by his sister.

These four lovers the most accomplished and happiest in the world, were at the apartment of the king of Lombardy. The queen was with him, who by her diligence and care gave him continual testimonies of a true affection: As the wound was but small, he was soon cured. Pertharite to divert him, related to him the history of his own and his sister's metamorphosis.

The day we entered into the castle of the forest to seek there the genius of the archduke my father, our eyes were dazzled with an infinite number of spectres, and frightful phantoms; after having been tormented all night, at day-break, a woman of a respectable aspect, although she was very old, and all covered with sheaths, appeared

peared to us, holding in one hand a necklace, and a comb in the other ; here Pertharite, says she to me, take this necklace; and you Ferandine, addressing herself to my sister, comb yourself with this comb, if you would have your father return to his senses, and to comfort you in respect to any misfortunes that may happen to either of you, know that when you shall have this necklace put on you all your misfortunes will have an end, and you shall have all your heart can desire ; and you beautiful Ferandine, the same shall happen to you when your skin shall be burnt, and you combed with this same comb I give you. The mother of the sheaths disappeared after she had spoken these words.

However, in order to get out of this castle and to cure the archduke my father, I hastened to put this fatal necklace on, and immediately I found myself transformed as you saw me. My sister set up a great scream when she saw my misfortune. As my reason had not forsaken me in this unhappy change, it struck me with the greatest horror. In spite of my grief I endeavoured to keep Ferandine from the snares which the mother of the sheaths had designed. Not having the use of my voice, I made signs to her not to comb himself,
by

by putting my paws to my head ; this action deceived her, she thought I desired her to comb herself, and hoping that the comb would be an antidote to the necklace, she very readily combed herself ; but the moment she touched her hair, I saw it all on fire ; she run as soon as she could toward the castle gate, flinging away her comb, as I had done my necklace, soon got to the forest, and did not stop till she had got to the bank opposite this island ; I kept following her, and I saw her stop in the grotto at the baths, near where the water is ; she undressed herself to jump in, but she had the misfortune to cast her eyes on this villainous skin, and though she screamed out a thousand times to get away from it, she perceived she was forced by an invincible power to wrap herself up in it. I returned every day to the same place to bewail her, and to endeavour to see her again. I had one day climbed up the rock, where I poured out cries and lamentations toward the castle in this island, believing that Ferandine had took refuge there, when I saw a shallop come from it ; I went into it, and landed in the island ; I saw my sister in one of her fortunate days : She told me how well the governess had received her, and that she had treated her with all the humanity

nity in the world, but she drew tears from my eyes when she told me, that always when this skin presented itself before her, she was obliged to submit to her destiny ; she then leaped into the sea and came to the grotto of the baths, where the skin quitted her whilst she refreshed herself in the magnificent bath. The governess seemed to interest herself in our misfortune, permitted me to come from time to time to see Ferandine ; we agreed upon signs which I made on the top of the rock. I returned into the forest to seek there the remedy to our misfortunes, that is to say, the comb and the necklace ; fortune, or rather the enchantments of the mother of the sheaths, conducted me to a little palace, where I have dwelt ever since.

The beautiful princess of Lombardy hath told you in what manner I had the good fortune to meet with her, how I was obliged to leave her when the necklace shut itself ; and she hath informed you of all that hath happened to this minute.

This relation astonished every body. As soon as he had finished, the goddess of the ill took up the tale, it now comes to my turn, says she, to tell you, who this mother of the sheaths is, for what reason she exercised this cruelty to the archduke and
his

his charming family, and what at last all the sheaths would say. No, cried the giant, I am so surfeited with sheaths that I can hear no more. I have then nothing more to tell you, said the ram to him, for you know how all tales end. Ah! how should I know how this will end, replied the giant; finish it then, and finish it quickly.

The king of Lombardy was cured of his extreme ugliness, continued the ram, by the cure of his wound. The archduke obtained a peace of the mother of the sheaths with the return of his reason: She gave the enchanted island, and all the country round about, to the handsome Pertharite. He established his residence here with the princess of Lombardy, whom he espoused. And all the charms of the incomparable Ferandine were the lot of the prince of Lombardy.

The ram having happily for the readers, as well as the giant, put an end to his story, the business now was to dispatch a herald at arms to the Druid and his daughter.

While the ram diverted the giant, his lord, the Druid, was employed in bringing his daughter to herself, by calming the emotions of her heart. He had no other child, and if he had had fifty, the fifty together

gether would not have had half the merit and charms of Alia.

The open confession of the little Poinçon convinced him that his daughter had quitted all her hard-heartedness in favour of the prince of Noisy. He loved Alia as opulent and thoughtful men commonly do an only daughter. He had lost many an hour in endeavouring to prove by the most subtle reasonings, and the most convincing demonstrations, as he judged them to be, that she ought to hate the prince of Noisy instead of loving him. All that he could say had no influence upon her, and her heart had withstood, for ten years, his reasoning without submitting. The Druid found he must take some other method, and putting on a more serious air, Alia, says he to her, I could have wished you would have assisted me in gently curing you, that I might have spared your heart the sensible stroke I am now going to give it: But at last you force me to tell you, that him whom you love is no more. And I, replied she, can assure you, that you are deceived, for it is not two days ago that the prince of Noisy spoke to me in this garden. Alia, replied the Druid, do not amuse yourself with visions, which an immoderate grief makes you believe realities.

Hearken

Hearken to what I am going to tell you, and you shall find that my design is not to deceive you.

The race of the Pepins is in possession of a throne which my grandfather believed he had a better claim to ; after many fruitless efforts to obtain his right, he found in the study of philosophy wherewith to comfort himself for the injustice of his fortune ; but the progress he made in it was nothing in comparison of the knowledge I have acquired in the most impenetrable secrets of nature, a constant application and indefatigable pains have made me master of the spirits in the four elements, and their intelligences joined to my insight into things, has enabled me to foretel future events, as well as to know every thing that has happened. Nevertheless, as there is no mortal power above the want of other assistance, so I see my power so limited by the loss of the book I had forbid you to read, that I am reduced to the unfortunate situation of yeilding to my enemies ; of being informed to no purpose of their designs against me, without being able to prevent their combinations or the mischief they threaten us with. The greatest of my enemies is the enchanter Merlin, and the greatest of his enemies is an immortal woman, whom they com-

commonly call the mother of the sheaths : She dwelt once about the Apennine mountains, I will tell you some other time all that she did in Italy to draw thither her enemy Merlin, less knowing than she as to truth, but much more subtil and crafty ; it was by his artifices that he knew how to make himself master of the most precious of her treasures : It was a knife, the marvellous virtues of which made the principal support of all his enchantments. In short, the knife was to him what my book was to me : The regret she had on the losing it caused her to do a great deal of mischief to the innocent to find out the guilty. She established every where a kind of chest quite crammed with sheaths ; she required of all who came to implore her assistance an offering of knives, in hopes that that which she had lost, would at length be put into one of her sheaths. The witch some years since quitting Italy, which she had exhausted of knives, came to settle in France, to be near Merlin, whom she suspected of the theft, and who along while lived in splendor at the court of king Pepin. She made choice of Moulins for her residence ; there the knives came in shoals from all parts ; and if my art does not deceive me, this place in all ages to come will

will furnish all Europe with knives. Nevertheless this perfidious man did not long enjoy his booty, the famous Dagobert, my father, found means to lay hold of it, and this wonderful thing, which was gone, is now at my command. Merlin knows it very well, and since he is certain of it, there are no kind of enchantments, stratagems, and artifices, which he hath not put in practice to get from me this precious knife. My power, much greater than his own, before the loss of my book, defended me till now against all his enterprizes ; and these habitations were inaccessible to all his attempts ; but I tremble to think that my book may be in his hands and make him master of our destiny.

I begin to think that this implacable ram, who so boldly declares his hatred against us, is the enchanter Merlin, who endeavours to introduce himself into this dwelling by all kind of ways. The great Dagobert, my father, who foretold your birth, and the dangers which threatned you, prepared a green cradle to put you into as soon as you should come into the world : It is this cradle which hath defended you from a thousand misfortunes ; and which will defend you, while it does not fall into the power of any man ; it is for this reason that
it

it is at the bottom of the fountain, called the fountain of the cradle, and which no one can approach with impunity; for as he who shall gain that, will have possession of you, so he who shall make that attempt without succeeding, it shall be his tomb. The rash prince of Noisy, whose destiny was to make you unhappy, hath made an attempt of the like kind, at the risk of sinking there; but he hath perished after another manner. Yes, my daughter, continues the Druid, this phantom which hath disturbed your mind, ought to be erased from your heart; and if you have listned to his voice a little, be assured that it is an illusion of the enchanter Merlin to draw you into some snare. We must not any longer interrupt the attention the pretty Alia lent to the discourse of her father; she grew pale, wept, tore her hair, and after having done every thing that accompanies despair, she swooned away in her father's arms. As soon as she came to herself, she wanted to know what kind of death had put an end to the days of her dear lover, that she might die in the same manner. The Druid told her the business now was not to die for a man, whose life had been the only obstacle to her happiness; but his scheme was to restore to the mother of the sheaths
 what

what her enemy had robbed her of, and then to join all their forces again him; that after this union, fortune would prepare for them an establishment full of glory and felicity. All this was to no purpose, the Druid was obliged to yield to the eagerness of so whimsical a curiosity. He conducted his daughter then to the feet of Cleopatra, made her open the statue, and permitted the amiable Poinçon to go out, and render himself visible; but although he had nothing that merited the attention of Alia more than this charming little figure, she did not regard him at all; he was quite in despair at this contempt, for he loved the nymph with the utmost affection, and would have been glad to have done her any service. The Druid trusted Poinçon with the talisman, which he wore on his finger, and charged him to bring to him with all speed, something that he would find in the midst of the liquid gold and jewels, which he had guarded so long without seeing them, he returned in a moment and brought back with him a knife of a moderate size: Its blade glittered, had two edges, and the point appeared very sharp. The Druid took it out of the hands of Poinçon with some kind of respect, and putting it into his daughter's, here,

Here, says he to her, is the oracle which will inform you of the destiny of him whom you regret; I would have you be convinced yourself, that there is no fraud in this trial: put the point of this knife on the smoothest place of the pedestal, on which the statue stands, the characters which it will draw there, will conduct your hand, and satisfy your curiosity. As soon as the point of a knife touched the stone, it began to write with great rapidity, and then stopped all at once. Alia then read the writing; she read it three or four times over to be more convinced of her misfortune, and to strengthen herself in the resolution not to survive him; oracles are usually delivered in verse, the contents of this was; 'The Seine saw near Poissy, by an unlucky adventure, the end, without seeing the interment, of the unfortunate prince of Noisy; you who bewail a loss you would do well to forget, since the discovery is at last made, you have nothing to take care of but the rain.'

The first attempt of the beautiful Alia was to stab herself with the same knife, which informed her of the loss of him, whom she adored; but her father stopt her, snatcht the knife from her, and after many vain attempts to calm her mind, obtained at last that she would drag on her miserable

life till she could lay hold of the cursed
 ran Merlin, to make him die by long and
 violent torments. For I leave you to think,
 how horrible and detestable to her, must
 be the murderer of him she loved, and if
 she would not be glad to wreck her ven-
 geance upon him. But the difficulty was
 how to seize the guilty one. The Druid
 told his daughter, that he must make use of
 the most imperceptible artifices, to get him
 into his power. The difficulties that Alia
 forsook would attend the execution of her
 scheme, redoubled her impatience, and vex-
 ation. She embraced her father's knees,
 and conjured him by all his tenderness to
 put in practice all the secrets he was master
 of, to hasten the desired moment of her
 vengeance, when they heard the sound of
 trumpets toward the gate of the castle. The
 little Poinçon was detached to discover what
 it was. A moment after, he came to tell
 the Druid, it was an herald at arms from
 the giant. He resolved to give him au-
 dience. He was introduced into the great
 hall of the palace, where the Druid re-
 ceived him, whilst his daughter, as she fol-
 lowed the little Poinçon, was endeavouring
 to move the groves, the fountains, and all
 the marble in the garden to pity her, by
 mournful complaints ; but every thing was
 insen-

insensible to her grief ; there was none but the little Poinçon who bore her company, and who joined with her in tears, when she mentioned the prince of Noisy. This mournful employment was at length interrupted by the return of the Druid.— Joy, astonishment, and uneasiness were painted at once in the countenance of the Druid, however difficult it may be to paint them altogether on the same face. My daughter, cries he, fortune hath done more for you than I could have hoped for by my art ; the enemy hath prevented all the snares I had laid for him ; he is coming at last to put himself into my hands. But I do not know but Merlin the enchanter, may aim by these propositions of the giant, to get a knowledge of the treasure we have here : we cannot doubt but he hath destroyed the prince of Noisy to get possession of the book, which this unfortunate man was not able to hold against him. This advantage, will serve not only to cover him from our intended vengeance, but put him in a situation to oppress us, if he is not blinded by the greatness of his project. He comes here under a pretence to have his horns, and feet gilded, but it is at bottom, to make himself master of a treasure on which depends our destiny, and which, since the

loss of the book, which he has in his possession, is my only resource: he believes himself so well concealed, under this form of a ram, that he imagines he can surprise us into a foolish confidence. He is to be introduced here to-morrow, for the sake of the ceremony, which we are to honour him with; for I immediately gave consent to all his proposals, and to-morrow you shall know the form in which I intend he shall be received.

This news suspended the grief of Alia, to make room for the flattering hope of an approaching revenge, and though the name of the ram alone, made her shudder with horror, she desired nothing so much as to see him. As soon as day appeared, she found out her father, who after taking all the necessary precautions against the designs of the inchanter, carried his daughter with him to the statue of Cleopatra. Despair and grief had extremely impaired her charms, she had not one ornament about her to set her off, yet for all that she was still a great beauty. She went then with her father to the foot of the statue, every thing was prepared for the scheme they had contrived. A vessel enriched with large diamonds, contained a liquor still more precious, since it was that liquor of gold with which they
had

had promised the ram to gild his horns and feet. The Druid then gave his last instructions to his daughter; but he first put the ring on her left-hand, and in the right, the formidable knife of the witch. Alia, says he to her, after he had armed her, I leave you, for I am not proof against enchantments now I have resigned to you the talisman; you have nothing to fear from all the efforts that Merlin can make to hurt you; only remember what I am going to tell you. As soon as the ram appears, conceal the knife, and only shew him the vase that you hold, he will no sooner see it, but he will approach to it without any mistrust, but as he knows he cannot become possessor of it before he has touched it, make as if you wanted to begin by gilding his feet before you come to his horns, then make him kneel down at your feet, as if you was going to work there, and when you have got him upon the ground, with your knife, cut as fast as you can the wool upon his head; if he then quits the form of a ram, to appear under that of Merlin, as he will not fail to do, if it is him; kill the enchanter before he can escape you, and if he does not quit the form of a ram, kill him nevertheless, and revenge the evils he has done you; this being executed, come

to me in the palace, as fast as you can. Poinçon, whom I render invisible, shall be near you. The Druid embraced his daughter, and retired into the hall after he had finished his instructions. He had hardly got there, but they heard the sound of trumpets, and some moments after the ram, having shewed his passport, appeared in the middle of the garden. All the blood in Alia's body was in motion upon the sight of the murderer of her lover; the impatience she felt to have him in her power, was so violent, that it was necessary for the ram to have all that confidence he really had, not to discover her intentions.

As soon as he came to Alia he bowed his head by way of saluting her, she thought he presented his horns to have them gilt by her fair hands, that made her almost beside herself, and giving him a kick in the middle of his forehead, she said to him, lay down you rascal if you want me to touch you. The ram who did not perhaps expect such a reception, nevertheless did as he was bid, and laid himself along at her feet. Then forgetting the order of the Druid her father, which he had given in his instructions to her, she was willing to go the surest way to work, and having thrust the knife into his breast, she then
cut

cut a lock of wool off his head, which she ought to have done at first. This affair being finished, she runs to the palace to tell her father of the death of the ram, and to carry to him her glorious spoil. But in what a fright was she, when she saw the surprise and horror of the Druid? Unhappy wretch! says he, drawing back, what blood are you come from shedding, since it is neither the ram's nor the enchanter's? Look at the spoils you have brought me. Then she cast her eyes on her hand, which she thought held the wool of the ram-Merlin, and found it full of the whitest and fairest hair ever seen. Upon her looking at it a secret horror seized her mind, and letting the hair and the knife fall, she run quite frightened to see about this unhappy adventure. Her father did what he could to call and run after her, she never stopped till a new concert all on a sudden stopped her. The statues of the garden, animated by some enchantment, seemed to unite their mournful voices in singing :

Ah ! it is Alia herself

Who hath killed her lover !

All the birds in the furthest part of the forests assembled themselves about the statues to answer them, and the echoes of the places about repeated the same, and the misfortune was, the statues, the birds, and the echoes, who all said the same thing, said nothing but what was true.

The miserable Alia disengaging herself from the arms of her father, who had held her, whilst she was giving all her attention to what she heard, run quite frightened to the statue of Cleopatra. What a spectacle for a heart filled with the most lively and sincere tenderness that ever was ! It was not now the affair of the ram the object of her vengeance and horror. The handsome prince of Noisy, the more charming still, than when she saw him at the fountain of the cradle ; now his blood was gushing out of the frightful wound which she had just made ; she flung herself upon him and embraced him for the first and last time of her life. Her lover opened his eyes feebly, turned them languishingly toward her, and closed them for ever.

The beautiful Alia leaned against the foot of the pedestal of the statue ; held between her arms the bloody body of the most charming of all men and most faithful of all lovers, and poured on his face, and the wound

wound she had made, a torrent of tears. The Druid, the little Poinçon, the Sylphs, and all the little birds there, joined in bewailing this sad and mournful spectacle.

Although the Druid was struck to the heart with grief, and confounded with astonishment caused by so many unforeseen events, he was not a man that would set himself down easy in the state we left him. His first care was to return to the palace; he had left the only resource he had, to run after his daughter. He ordered the Sylphs to take away the body of the prince of Noisy, and to bring it near the fountain of the cradle, where he would follow it; then he carried Alia into the closet of the Vestals, and ordered the little Poinçon not to quit her, for fear despair should cause her to do some violence to herself. The orders of the Druid were but badly executed for the timid Sylphs frightened at being alone with a pale and disfigured body, finding the little Poinçon near Alia, begged him, whilst they stayed with her, to carry the prince of Noisy to the fountain of the cradle. It turned out that the change in the order of the Druid was not, attended with any bad consequence, as will be seen in the sequel.

The concern of the Druid was not for a trifle ; it had for its object the enchanted knife, which his daughter had let fall in the hall of the palace, he had nothing to fear but the loss of this treasure, nor nothing to hope without the assistance that accompanied it. Alia, had by chance let it fall, and as whenever its point touched any thing, it wrote ; he found an infinite number of characters traced on the floor of the salon. The knife stained with the blood of the unfortunate prince of Noisy, marked, and distinctly, all the traces of the writing on the marble, and still kept on writing. The Druid laid hold of it, and stopt it, and although he knew all the languages of the universe, he could not find out what the knife had wrote. There was nothing but these words continually repeated: CASIA, TUXIL, GRIMORINN, GRINA, NAXUN, CRADEL.

He read them over a thousand times, turned them into all forms, put the point of the knife twenty times on the marble floor, without being able to mark any thing but this confounded Casia, &c. which it always began over and over again. He thought the blood with which it was stained, might have been the cause of this mysterious language which baffled all his knowledge.

ledge. He went then to wash it off in the neighbouring fountain, but the water only rendered the blood more lively, and seemed to incorporate itself with this shining blade. From the water he went to the statue of Cleopatra to put it in its usual place; but as soon as it was in the middle of this golden liquid, it resumed its lustre, and all the blood disappeared. Then the Druid began to think that he should be able to explain it more clearly; but having put it near the same place of the statue, where it wrote the first time, it repeated still the same characters, as in the hall. The Druid flew into such a passion, that he was going to dash it against the statue, or to break it, to punish it for his own ignorance. Nevertheless, as he was truly a philosopher, he acted the most reasonable part: after having shut it up in the statue, he confronted the Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldee, and Chinese, with those mysterious words, which gave him so much uneasiness. This employed him till almost night, and he had entirely forgot our unfortunate lovers. It wont be amiss to leave him where he is, to see after his unhappy daughter.

The closet of the Vestals, where the Sylphs kept her, was a thorough representation of all which has been related of the

virgins of antiquity. There was the statue, of them who revered the sacred fire, of which they were the depositaries of those who by a glorious death delivered themselves from the addresses and violence of wicked emperors, and others, who having yielded to the temptations of persons of less figure in life, were upon the point of undergoing the most rigorous chastisement.

The Druid had hardly left his daughter in the closet of the vestals, but this tender and despairing lover fell into a swoon. As she recovered her senses, her grief also returned with them: it is impossible to express her cries, and the agony she was in: she required of heaven, of earth, and of the Sylphs, that adored object, whom she herself had killed. But in what a condition was she when casting her eyes upon her hands, she saw them stained with the blood of the unfortunate ram. At this sight, falling into the greatest agony possible, the deprivation of her senses came to her assistance, as it had done some days before. She began at once to stare, and taking it in her head, that she was a vestal falsely accused, she asked for a pocket-book, to make there, a will which proceeded from her heart, which she charged the Sylphs to
give

give to her dear lover. The Sylphs were frightned, at this wandering of her mind; they drew back. Then Alia cried out, no, you unnatural virgins, you are not worthy of the precious deposit which you refuse. But I see him myself, adds she, raising herself up in a hurry, I see that well-beloved shade, which comes to receive my last adieus.

There needed no more to set her at full liberty; which makes me believe those who guarded Alia, were rather some villagers disguised like nymphs than true Sylphs; for they run away as soon as their mistress said, she saw the shadow of her lover; and the beautiful Alia full of this idea, run about like a mad-woman, believing she saw the prince of Noisy, and called out to him with a loud voice. She had got to the garden gate, and although it was shut, she believed that her lover made his escape that way. This obstacle would have stopped her course, since all the art and force in the world could not open a gate which was kept shut by enchantment, without the ring which Alia had on finger, which her father had put on it to defend her from the frauds of Merlin. But by chance leaning her hand upon the garden-door, as soon as

the

the talisman touched it, it opened, and the charming Alia ran into the fields.

She crossed the bridge which had caused her so many fears a little time before, and went over it without knowing it was a bridge, and that it was a contrivance of the poor ram: if she had known it, I don't know what would have become of her, for she would have wanted to stay there to make some exclamations; and if by chance she had touched it with her talisman, adieu to bridge and nymph; all the enchantment being destroyed if once the ring had touched it, but when misfortunes are coming, we avoid one danger to fall into a greater.

The giant Moulineau had kept near the garden gate to enter in after the death of the Druid, as had been concerted between his first minister and him; and while the sad scene of which we have been speaking passed within the garden, he had been continually roving about on the outside, and did not apprehend there was any thing to retard a revolution, which was to put him in possession of his mistress, and the treasures of the Druid, and which was to cost him only some strokes on the horns; one while he thought the ram had betrayed him, another while he thought he had been betrayed

trayed himself. But at last night coming on, while he was agitated by his impatience and reflections, he went to go over the bridge to regain his quarters, when the unfortunate Alia perceiving him in the dark, took him for that dear shade she was in pursuit of, and this idea making her double her speed, my dear prince, said she, stop, and receive the last sighs of thy cruel, innocent murderer.

The amorous Monlineau recollected the voice which struck his ear, although it was the same voice which had called him dwarf, he turned immediately toward that face which dissipated the darkness of the night. What were his thoughts in seeing the beautiful Alia, who came with open arms to fling herself into his? He imagined that the faithful ram had killed the Druid, and that his daughter, now at her liberty, took the first opportunity of giving way to that inclination she always had toward him.

The author of these memoirs hath been blamed for interrupting this adventure, just as we were on the point of coming to the Druid; the hour was unseasonable, the illusions carried far, and the giants are serviceable. Whilst the giant was transported with such unexpected good fortune; the Druid having to no purpose been turning over
the

the leaves of his ancient manuscripts, at last bethought himself of his daughter; but as he thought her in safety under the protection of the vigilant Poinçon, he advanced toward the fountain of the cradle, to dispose of the body of the unfortunate prince of Noisy, according to the manner he had determined; but he was no sooner in the middle of the garden, but he saw there the Sylphs, some of whom had concealed themselves in the palisades, others run away at his approach; he called to them in a loud voice, asking them what they had done with the prince of Noisy, but this question did not make them return back. Seeing he could get nothing out of them, he repaired with all speed to the side of the fountain, where he was greatly surprised to find the little Poinçon in despair.

What do you do here, says the Druid to him, and what is become of my daughter? Your daughter, replied the disconsolate Poinçon, is safe enough in the hands of the Sylphs, but for the body of the prince of Noisy, it is lost in spite of all my care; I wept over him, I deplored his cruel destiny, and I compassionated the grief of the beautiful Alia, when I saw all of a sudden near me, a man of the most noble and respectable aspect in the world, excepting your-

yourself. This man after shedding tears at the adventure which I related in a few words, said to me, that instead of giving way to tears, which no ways helped the misfortune of him, whom I lamented, the only thing now proper to be done, was to plunge his body into the fountain, to cleanse it from the blood with which it was stained, before it is burnt: I gave credit to him, but the body of the prince of Noisy had no sooner touched the water, but it sunk to the bottom, in spite of all my efforts, and the cradle rising up to the top of the water at the same time, this man seized it, and disappeared. Then you have done it, cruel Merlin, cried the Druid, you have overcome! but for you, you rascal, said he to Poinçon, who have loaded me with misfortunes, tremble at the punishment I prepare for you. The miserable Poinçon was more dead than alive; nevertheless, the Druid did not yet know all his misfortunes. He took the guilty Poinçon to the statue of Cleopatra to shut him up there again; but this same statue which opened itself without the help of a talisman to enclose the knife in it, refused to open itself to let Poinçon enter. The Druid just then perceived he had left the ring on his daughter's finger, he ran to look for her in the closet

closet of vestals (and that you will judge was to very little purpose) new alarms! fresh reproaches and threatnings to the unfortunate Poinçon! The Druid returned to his palace to seek there for Alia: after fruitless searches he run about all the garden. He began to be on the brink of despair, when lifting up his eyes toward heaven, as people commonly do when they meet with unforeseen misfortunes, he thought he saw a new star. Astronomy always suspends the most lively disquiet, for a new discovery in those regions. He presently concluded it to be a comet, or some other phænomenon, and presently after he knew not what. It was a luminous body, which seemed to be suspended in the air, and which increased in bulk in proportion as it approached the earth: He discovered it at last to be a chariot all environed with light, which took a great circuit round the garden. When it had descended as low as the Palisades, it appeared to him to be drawn by two unicorns who carried flambeaus at the tips of their horns. This chariot, which wonderfully surprised him; set itself down in the middle of the garden. As he had a spirit too great to be frightened at prodigies, he went near the chariot: All these flambeaus he had seen in the air, were
so

so many wax candles placed in sheaths about the chariot, and the horns of the animals which had drawn it, were nothing but two great sheaths bearing each a lighted flambeau. While the Druid gave all his attention to this new spectacle, the chariot opened, and the mother of the sheaths came out presenting her hand to him. She was a woman of a good mein, and who carried her age so well, that she did not appear to be forty years old, although she was above four hundred; she had on a dress of crimson velvet, set all over with sheaths of gold. Give the care of this carriage, says she to the Druid, to somebody, who will be answerable to you for it, it may be of some service to you, in the embarrassment, I know you are in. It was by chance I knew it to day; and I have seen in examining my books, that what I look for, is not far from hence. It is not seven minutes since I left Moulins, perhaps I might have prevented the unhappy accident which happened to you, if I had discovered sooner, what I have been so long ignorant of, but let us go rest ourselves in your palace. The Druid having called Poinçon, who out of respect had withdrawn himself, commanded him with a severe air, to conduct the chariot to the closet of the vestals, and

and to take care of it. Upon entering the hall of the palace, the mother of the sheaths was struck with the characters which the knife had traced, she gave a start, and stopping short all at once, what do I see! says she, by what accident did my precious knife escape the hands of the perfidious Merlin, to come to condole your misfortune, in a language unknown to the rest of mortals? The Druid wondering, without however revealing the adventure of his knife, begged her to explain to him, these words, since they seemed to regard him. This, says the mother of sheaths is the explanation: 'Do not fear any harm to your Alia, as long as you have her cradle, keep the ram from the water, and I will answer for her life.' The learned M—— assures us, that the Druid became paler, than the white handkerchief of the mother of sheaths; nevertheless he was not willing to confess what was the occasion of it. The sorceress having remarked the trouble the Druid was in, said, let us go into some other place where I can more commodiously instruct you in certain things, which without doubt have escaped that universal knowledge which art and nature hath so plentifully bestowed on you. At these words, the Druid conducted her into the picture gallery.

lery. It was really a delightful place. There was painted the representation of furniture, where the gold glittered throughout in the most live colours ; and all so well imitated, that any body would take it for real tapestry, grotesque figures, barbarian music, Chinese birds, and a thousand Indian flowers were beautifully displayed there. There was no representation to be seen there, either of what was passed or present, but what was worthy of the art and science of a Druid.

The finest work in this superb gallery, was a young majestic Augustus, who in future ages was to reunite the vast empire of the Gauls under his dominion, and whose glory was to extend to new discovered climates. The mother of the sheaths discovered who it was, although he was not to be born till two hundred years after ; and as soon as she had given a few moments attention to the other ornaments, she set herself down on a magnificent couch placed the Druid near her, and thus addressed herself to him.

born, as pretty as I am, when they are so young, but this pretence is indeed so wonderfully, that I passed for a miracle of beauty, and my planet which favoured me with this advantage, did also favour on me a genius, which surpassed the

The.

The HISTORY *of the* MOTHER *of the*
SHEATHS.

Although I know you are informed of many things relating to me, yet I am certain the most essential and extraordinary part of my history is unknown to you; therefore I shall be as brief in my relation as possible.

The Druid was hardly in a situation to give attention to the discourse of the mother of the Sheaths, for the explanation she had given to the characters in the hall, and the desire of finding Alia again, caused an agitation within him, that all his reason was scarce powerful enough to hide; nevertheless he heard the sorceress with a seeming tranquillity.

I am the daughter of the first sovereign of Armoric Gaul; at my birth they named me Philoclea, a very different name from that, which a popular tradition has made me bear above an age. I was, when I was born, as pretty as children generally are when they are so young, but this prettiness increased so wonderfully, that I passed for a miracle of beauty, and my planet which favoured me with this advantage, did also bestow on me a genius, which surpassed the
the

the lustre of so many graces, and this prevented me from being dazzled with my own charms. I was a long time before I could see any who were worthy of my choice, solitude was my delight, and reading all my amusement. My father, the most magnificent prince of his age was also the most ignorant; nevertheless he had collected at a great expence, the most scarce and curious books in the universe, but he never read one. This library was my ordinary abode: from my reading, and the extracts I there made, I drew the first elements of that knowledge, which hath since rendered me so famous. A continual application, joined to the penetration of my genius, soon made me mistress of the most unknown characters, and the obscure meanings of the books, with which this library is filled. Nevertheless, the most valuable of all these volumes appeared a long while impenetrable to me; it contained an infinite number of plants, and flowers, in some places intermixed, in others ranged separately, and in others the arrangements interrupted by planets and constellations, in the different forms astronomers have represented them. I did not doubt but the hieroglyphics were employed instead of the different characters with which other books were wrote. I attained

tained the knowledge of a language vastly difficult and unknown to all others in spite of the mystery and ænigmas, in which it was enveloped. I was sufficiently recompensed for my labour, and application, by the secrets which my book revealed to me.

My father who had no other fault to find in me, but my being too much attached to reading, often threatened to burn all the books. One day he forced me from the library to go a fowling: he dressed me in a hunting habit. I got on horseback, and in that situation, in the midst of a brilliant company of both sexes, I outshined all the women, and charmed all the men, without giving myself the least concern about it.

We were in the middle of a vast plain, which were bordered by a very deep river; as soon as the fowling began, there was a prodigious shouting, and my horse being frightened run away with me to the river. He plunged in, and having swam over, did not stop till he had got into the middle of a wood. I alighted, tied my horse to the first tree, and rejoiced that this accident had freed me from a troublesome croud, I walked on for sometime; and finding a proper place to repose myself, I set myself down on a green turf at the foot of an old oak. Here I gave loose to my thoughts; with
which

which I was so much taken up, that night was coming on, when my attention was drawn to a great screek from the top of the tree against which I leaned; a great owl set up this cry; he fell from branch to branch, and being encumbered on the last by a great number of rags, which hung to his feet; I took it to be him they were giving chase to. This species of birds are generally the sport of other birds. As I thought otherwise, I set him at liberty; but instead of flying away, when I had released him, he placed himself within a couple of steps of me, and fixed his eyes on me. The night coming on began to restore to him the use of his sight, which the day had deprived him of. Instead of speaking to me, as I thought he was going to do, after having ogled me sometime, he set up a little screek, clapped his wings, and flew away; he did not fly very swiftly, he settled on another oak about ten steps from that, and set up another screek; I went near it but the owl disappeared, and from the place where I saw it, there issued a ray of light. Many flambeaus appeared a moment after in the wood, and a party of them who were dispersed all about to seek for me, having found me, I regained my father's court late at night.

From that day I was forbid to go into the library, all that I could obtain was to take a single book out of it. It was that of the hieroglyphics, and as my father thought it was only to look at the pictures, I was permitted to carry it to the solitary walks, I used to frequent. They were commonly toward the wood, where I had seen the owl; I was engaged very deeply there one day, after having left them who accompanied me at the entrance of the wood, to walk with more liberty; I was waiting there for the setting of the sun, in hopes of seeing my owl; I examined with care all the trees, without being able to recollect that from which I had seen this ray of light proceed, and being fatigued in this fruitless search, I laid myself down on the grass, and fell into a profound sleep, it did not last long, and what caused me to awake, was the feeling myself almost in the arms of a man, or to speak more properly, one of those human forms under which they paint the Satyrs; he had the face of one, and although he had neither their horns, nor their feet, his body was covered with frightful hair which stood up an end like so many bristles. My efforts and cries would perhaps have been insufficient to defend me, if the owl, the most frightful that it was

was possible for an owl to be, had not alarmed this monster; he retired back some steps, and lift up his eyes to see from whence this scream came, he saw as well as I something luminous between the claws of the owl, which descending like lead upon him, laid him at my feet. I believed him struck with a thunderbolt, the earth was soaked with his blood; and although I was seized with horror at it, yet I went near him; I could not resist the curiosity I had, to find out what had given this mortal blow; he was fallen on his back, and I saw only the handle of a knife, the whole blade of which seemed to be buried in his heart. I had no sooner drawn it out, but those parts of it which were not stained with blood dazzled me with their lustre. As soon as I had this knife in my possession, I believed I had the most valuable of all treasures, and I was not deceived; I went to wash the blade in a clear water which issued out of a rock, about two steps from where I was; but it was to no purpose, the water only made the colour of the blood more lively; this prodigy astonished me, and my astonishment was doubled yet by a new prodigy; I leaned the point on the rock to see if the blood would not then rub out; but as soon as the point touched the rock,

the knife seemed to be animated with a motion to which I gave way; and following its motion with the hand which I held it in, it formed some common characters: but the writing was in the same language with that wrote in your hall, and is the language which I have learned in the book of which I am speaking. This is what was written on the rock. "You young beauty, who are fond of nothing which persons of your age are generally fond of. You young beauty keep me safely, and I will do the same by you." I am a little more prolix on these first circumstances of my life, because they are not known to you, as to the rest, I shall relate them more succinctly.

I had two inestimable treasures which, elevating me above ordinary intelligencies, took away my taste from every thing but sublime speculations. All that I had tried to get the blood off the knife, had no effect. I bethought myself one day to to scrape it with the point of a gold bodkin; the gold liquified it, and it all run off even to the least spot. I consulted it in all my difficulties, and I always got free of all my embarrassments by what it wrote. I now recollect that it did not explain itself in this unknown language when
it

it was bloody. I have often thought it was the knife which Apollo made use of to flea Marcias, since it gave out its own oracles in verse as his did. But let us finish.

I stayed with my father without ever consenting to those engagements, with which, he was continually teasing me, and my beauty still preserved all its lustre, whilst every body of my age, found their charms decay, according to the number of their years ; I perceived they were tired of a beauty which they had beheld so long, and finding myself also tired of it, I quitted my native climate, to go to make new discoveries in a strange country. I visited Egypt, Africa, Persia and the Indies, many ages being expired during these different voyages, and the long abodes I made in those remote regions, I determined at last to return to Europe, to enrich it by so many laborious and difficult labours. I found the reputation of the famous Merlin spread every where ; the desire I had of knowing if the wonders which were published of his knowledge deserved that reputation, made me go to England, I took the form you see me in to go there, and I found Merlin equal to all that had been published in his favour. His extraction is illustrious,

since he descends as well as myself from one of the first sovereigns of America, whose posterity is established in the province of Cornouaille of which he was duke.

The favour of the king of England was a great assistance to Merlin, I found him worthy of it, I was charmed with his genius, but I was not so well pleased with his character, although he concealed it as much as he possibly could by a great appearance of sincerity, which covered a cunning, which amounted to little less than fraud. I presently found out that the pains he took to render himself agreeable to me, and to insinuate himself into my good graces, was entirely the effect of self-interest. He spake often to me of that Philoclea of which the chronicle of Britany, made mention, and whom they believed yet, said he, to be alive. He also spoke of a sword, which had rendered this famous beauty immortal; while he was speaking about these things he always kept his eyes fixed on me. There needed no more to alarm me, I had recourse to my knife, and my knife advertised me that Merlin wanted to have the most valuable of my treasures. All my knowledge not being able to remove my fears of the artifices

tifices of a man, who seemed to have discovered me, I quitted England to take refuge at the foot of mount Apennine, to hide me there from his pursuit, and from all his schemes, I took there this form of extreme decrepitness, in which I appear, but all my precautions were to no purpose. The perfidious Merlin so managed, that he got away my knife.

You know part of what hath happened to me since; you know the cause of this great number of Sheaths, which hath made them give me the name of the mother of Sheaths; you know also what brought me to France.

I am informed of what happened to you these two days, and it is to offer you all the assistance of my art, joined to your own, that I am come hither. The perfidious Merlin being drove out of England hath not only found an azylum at the court of king Pepin; but, as a fresh instance of his favour, he hath put him in possession of the principality of Noisy; it is there he hath brought up his son with the same dread, of your neighbourhood, as you have always had of his. You see, the stars mock all the precautions, which both of you have taken to alienate two hearts, whose tenderness must prove so fatal to

their union : the book of which I spoke to you hath instructed me in all these things, and promises me possession of the treasure, which Merlin hath robbed me of. I knew how to recall his son from the gates of death to life, and that it was but restoring this son to him, and the enchanter would return my knife to me. You are now to inform me by what chance it could escape from his hands to kill his son, and afterward trace the characters which I have read on the marble of your hall.

The Druid quite cast down by his affliction, not being able to contain himself any longer, and perceiving more and more the need he might have of the forcerefs, fell down at her knees, and bathing them with his tears, he told her plainly the condition of his affairs. What ! cried the mother of the Sheaths hath the prince of Noisy disappeared in the fountain ? The cradle of Alia in appearing above the water hath it been took away by Merlin ? For do not doubt it, it is he himself that hath done the robbery, and more than that, your daughter is lost. What misfortunes ! adds she, the lost of Alia, which is the most sensible of all to you, makes me tremble for you, since you will not find her, without finding again her cradle, and how to hope
for

for it your most cruel enemy having it in his possession, and this enemy Merlin, who in spite of all my cares and precautions hath carried away my knife. At saying these words some tears trickled down the sorceress's cheeks, and in a mournful tone, she repeated what the knife had traced in the forest. "You young beauty, keep me safely and I will do the same by you." Is it this which you recommended to me, continued she, a precious treasure which I was so apprehensive of losing, and which loss I have regretted with an aching heart, and which I always shall. Alas! What could I do more to preserve you! Why did not you preserve me with the same care according to your promise, when the enchanted chariot presented itself to my sight in the Apennine deserts.

The Druid at this increase of grief which the mother of the Sheaths expressed, believed he could not take a better opportunity, to let her know this so valuable and so regretted knife was in his power, than by offering to put it into her hands. She was so ravished with this, that she thought she should have swooned away at it. The Druid conducted her to the statue of Cleopatra, forgetting that he had not that ring which only could open it. He

stopt on a sudden over-against it, and the forcerefs, to whom he confessed, that in losing his daughter, he had also lost his talisman which she had on her finger; he told her that this ring was the only key which could open the statue, in which the knife was inclosed. The forcerefs being desperate, resolved to employ the whole compass of her science to triumph over those obstacles which opposed her happiness. She told the Druid to order Poinçon to go into all sorts of forms to search for Alia, while she employed her utmost abilities to find out the cradle.

Let us then return to the beautiful Alia, whom we left flinging herself desperately into the arms of the giant; this situation would have given me disquiet for any other than Alia, but great was the virtue of antique Talismans, and greater still the faith of those who believed in them. The charming Alia, who thought she was running after the shade of her dear lover, expected to embrace nothing but air, but how was she surpris'd to find herself in the arms of a solid and tolerably thick body; her fear presently brought her to her senses. Then beholding with horror the danger she had flung herself into, she uttered a thousand cries, and made a thousand efforts
to

to disengage herself from the giant, who far from letting go his prey, carried her into his own quarters, without letting her feet touch the ground. What fright seized her mind, when she saw herself shut up, and when she began to think, that in the same day she stabbed the object of all her tenderness, she was in the power of a monster she detested? The giant asked her why she cried out so at naming the prince of Noisy; she told him it was because she had killed him with her own hand; the giant would have embraced her by way of thanking her, but she forbidding this mark of his thankfulness, he asked her what was become of his ram. He is dead, replied she to him, it is I who have assassinated him. Unfortunate prince of Noisy! cried she. It is me, who under the——Moulineau transported with fury, without giving Alia time to finish, and without consulting his love for her, gave her a blow which knocked her down, and was about to cut off her head, to revenge the murder she had confessed. She was ravished to be beat, so much did she fear a worse treatment. Untoward wretch, says the giant to her, taking her up roughly, see what your perfidy cost you? Had it not been for the confession you made, I would, quite booted

as I am, have taken you to my bed, but do not think to escape my vengeance, if it is true, that you have killed my ram; I am going to shut you in his chamber, and then I will inform myself of the truth. Tremble if my favourite is no more, thy father shall be my first victim, and when I shall be weary of making you serve to my amusements, I will bury you alive.

After having pronounced this dreadful sentence, the giant shut up Alia in the little cabin of the deceased ram, where he gave her time to reflect, whilst he snored till day-light. As soon as day appeared, the cruel Moulineau took the field, and the unfortunate Alia, who feared nothing so much as the execution of the sentence pronounced against her, was considering by what kind of death she could prevent that calamity. As she was looking about on every side, she saw the name of Alia engraved all about the walls, she then did not doubt but it was done by the faithful and delicate ram, this increased her grief, which was interrupted by a sight of the book, which she had flung from the window to the prince of Noisy; she leaned her hand against the door of the cabin while she was picking it up, as soon as the ring touched it, the door opened; you may well think

think the astonishment of Alia gave place to the haste she was in to seize so happy an occasion of saving herself, and getting hold of her book ; but she took care not to go towards her father's garden, where she knew the giant was gone ; so to avoid meeting him, she took a long winding about, and after having walked a pretty long while, she perceived a wood, which she threwed herself into, to stay there that night. This wood made a part of the forest of Noisy. As soon as she had got far enough in, to think herself in safety, she laid herself down at the foot of the first tree she came to, overwhelmed with grief, terror and weariness : She would have had less uneasiness, if she could have imagined what passed elsewhere.

The little Poinçon having taken upon him the exact form of the ram, left the Druid about the same time that the giant went from his habitation, and as soon as both met together, Signor Moulineau perceived his dear favourite at a distance, he repented of his bad treatment of the beautiful Alia, he ran to him full of joy, not doubting but he came to put him in possession of the rest of the treasures of his enemy, but he was very much surprised to see that his favourite the ram, instead of staying for him,

him, ran on the other side ; he might call and threaten as much as he would, as he ran after him, the ram always ran from him. This flying on one side, and pursuit on the other, through the most difficult ground that the little Poinçon could find, held so long, that the giant turned back, and after taking a great compass, finding himself pretty near his own quarters, he resolved to go and take his horse to get an account of this deserter, whom he had pursued so much, to so little purpose.

As soon as the giant had left off his pursuit, the ram went on all his legs, and after having run through all the places round about without finding any thing, he arrived before the setting of the sun, at that part of the forest of Noisy, which poor Alia had taken for her retreat ; he found her just as she was untying the prettiest garter in the world from the prettiest leg in the universe ; she was going to strangle upon the next tree, the most charming and most afflicted creature that ever existed. The presence of the ram prevented the unhappy effect of her despair. Nothing can express her astonishment and joy at the sight of him. Is it you? cried she, embracing him, is it you, my dear prince !

Is

Is it you that I see under this odious figure, which hath so cruelly abused me? The little Poinçon wept while she felt his side to look for the wound she had given; he was at a loss whether he should discover himself, being grieved at the thoughts of depriving her of the joy this illusion caused, but he must hower resumehis true form, and seeing the distress tender Alia was in, he conjured her to set her mind at ease, telling her she ought to hope a great deal from the assistance the mother of the Sheaths had promised, whose arrival he informed her of. Alia giving heed to the flattering discourse of Poinçon, agreed to go with him to her father.

While they were travelling on, the amiable Poinçon, who had charged himself with the book to free Alia from the trouble of it, said to her, my pretty mistress, if you know the joy that you are going to give to my lord the Druid, in carrying him this book, you would feel less grief, it is filled with the choicest secrets of nature, and the prettiest histories in the world, now to divert the fatigue of our journey, and to take off your thoughts from your afflictions, I will tell you one, for my master let me read in it sometimes; as to himself he never
amused

amused himself in reading the tales, which it is full of.

There was once a Druid in Lower Britany who was called Gaspard the learned, he was arrived to such a pitch of knowledge, that he had made a great book, which contained in it all the learning in the world; he had also invented a new language composed of flowers, plants, planets, and I know not how many things. Now this Gaspard the learned, had a son so handsome, that he grew enamoured of his own person, his greatest pleasure was in spending whole days in admiring himself in the water, for which reason his father called him Narcissus; nevertheless, he was so grieved at the folly of his son, that he took him one day into his laboratory, and after having reprimanded him sufficiently for his silly coquetry, my son said he to him you will never be good for any thing, if I keep you always near me, therefore I am going to provide you with a commission which will give you an opportunity of seeing the world, but it is on condition that you never see yourself, for if ever you look in the water, you will become so frightful, that you will be shocked at your own figure, and if this misfortune should happen, there is none but she who can read and understand

stand what is written in my book, that can restore this beauty, which hath turned your brain, and whom you will then despise for loving another. More than that, in recovering your first beauty, all my knowledge will be communicated to you as well as to her, into whose hands my book shall fall, if she can comprehend a language invented by myself alone. Hear what I am going to tell you. There is in the world a forest, and in this forest there is a tree very difficult to find, and in this tree there is a sheath of gold, and of a kind of gold that will not melt, as all other gold will on touching it with the knife I am going to give you, it is this sheath which you must search after, find, and bring to me; at these words he gave him the knife, embraced him tenderly, and parted from him. But he had no sooner lost sight of him, but he repented of sending him away from him, and agitated with fears, which presented to his thoughts the dangers which threatened his beloved son's life, he died a little time after the departure of Narcissus.

Narcissus, according to his father's orders, roved through all the woods, and searched all the trees, but to no purpose, to find a sheath to his knife. History says, he was full three years in going twenty leagues,

leagues, so much did he amuse himself in rambling about all the forests which lay in the way. At the end of these three years, he came near to the court of prince Koraliösmadæus, who reigned at that time in Britany, but as it was not in the courts of princes, he expected to find this sheath he sought after, he came no nearer it, than he was obliged in order to search the woods which were near it, he there saw a pleasant fort almost surrounded by a river, whose stream was more clear than chrystal, he was obliged to pass it to go into the forest, but in crossing, a curiosity of seeing if the fatigues of his journey had not impaired his beauty, got the better of all the menaces of his father, and he inclined his head toward the surface of the water. How great was his surprise, when instead of the face of the beautiful Narcissus, he saw that of a great owl, a dreadful screek which he made frightened him still more, since it was that of a real owl, and before he could make another, he became entirely so from head to foot. He lost his sight that moment, and was in despair of recovering it, but as soon as night came on, he found his sight came with it, and he took shelter in the woods. The unhappy Narcissus lead there a melancholy life, concealing

cealing himself all day in the hollow of a tree, and spending the nights in catching of mice for his food, and in seeking the sheath of the knife which he had always carefully preserved; he searched so much that at last he found the tree by the lustre with which this wonderful sheath glittered in the midst of the darkness, but he could not come at it to pull it from the tree, nor to put his knife into it, he spent part of the night in tormenting himself to effect one or the other, all he could do was to conceal his knife in the same tree, as near the sheath as he could. At last, I do not remember by what chance, a certain princess drew him out of this great embarrassment, this princess was so beautiful, that he then fell in love with her; she walked often in this wood, but he had the misfortune not to see her but when she stayed there till night, it was in one of these nights, that being asleep, near the tree where the owl was, who was contemplating her beauty, a savage awakened her by some insult; the amorous owl had recourse to his knife, and saved her, I don't know how, but in saving her he lost his knife, and this beauty carried it away. The loss of this treasure would have drove the owl to desperation, if it had not been in the prettiest hands in the universe.

verse. This charming princess was presently acquainted with all its virtues; staying one day till it was almost night in this wood; she put the point of her knife on a smooth stone, the faithful owl set himself down near her, without being perceived, the knife wrote of itself, as it was wont to do; and this is what it wrote,

“ Beautiful princess with this knife,
Strip off, strip off the feathers of a bird.”

This charming princess was scarcely in possession of the knife, but she swore to do whatever it traced out for her; willing to obey its orders, the moment she received them, she turned her head to seek for the owl, she was overjoyed to see him by her side, laid hold of him directly, and prepared herself to strip off his feathers with her knife, not without some regret at giving him such ill treatment, after the service she had received from him. Proportionably as she stript off the feathers, the beautiful Narcissus regained his first form. The princess was not frightened at this prodigy, and history says, that although he was naked, by being deprived of his feathers, she did not leave him alone: he perceived himself endued all at once with all the knowledge of the deceased Gaspard the learned, his father

ther ; therefore asking leave of the princess to render himself invisible, he promised to meet her the next day under a cradle, in one of the gardens of the prince her father. It was there she was enchanted with this beauty of which now he made no account of, it was under this happy cradle, secret witness of their felicity, that they married, and communicated to each other their knowledge, and all their secrets. He gave her something that would keep her from looking old, and prevent her ever dying ; he made her then swear never to part with her knife, to the possession of which their common good was bound, and never to speak of this adventure, nor of their union. They lived a long time the most happy life in the world, without being perceived, by the secret the happy Narcissus had to render himself invisible. He told her it was to no purpose to trouble herself to pull the sheath of gold from the tree where it was, since this wonder was reserved for another, but nevertheless the possession of the knife could not be secured but by having the sheath. I don't know for what reason they quitted their country, but after having travelled through all the world, Narcissus always invisible, and the princess always as beautiful as he desired, they

they settled somewhere near a mountain. Walking out one day, the princess saw a luminous chariot descend from the top of the mountain; from this chariot stepped out a magician, who shewed her the sheath of her knife, and falling on his knees before her, told her, he had a long while sought to give her this treasure, useless in any other hands but her own. He added, there was none but him who could put the knife into it; the princess was so delighted at receiving the sheath of gold, that without dreaming of the risque she run, she gave him her dear knife to put in it; but the sorcerer no sooner got it in his hands but he disappeared. I should tire you my pretty mistress, if I was to tell you the despair the astonished princess fell into on seeing in her hands the useless sheath of the knife which she had lost. But how great was her surprise and grief, when returning to tell her adventure to her dear Narcissus she could not find him; she spent a great deal of time in seeking him throughout all the world, without getting any intelligence either of him, or her knife, for it was upon the finding of that depended her seeing her dear spouse again; she returned to the same country where she had lost all that was valuable to her. There
despair

despair having soured the goodness of her natural disposition, she set herself about doing all the mischief she could to the two lovers, whose history I will relate to you; when having got rid of your misfortunes, your mind shall be more disposed to hear it.

The little Poinçon on finishing his story perceived that he had wandered out of the way in the forest, for the path which he took to bring them to the gardens of the Druid, did not lead thither; they were obliged to submit to that invisible power which conducted them into the middle of the palace of Noisy.

They arrived there at the time the inchanter Merlin was giving orders for the funeral rites, which he intended for this well beloved son; every place there was filled with sighs; the body of this handsome prince by a subterraneous communication was passed from the fountain of the cradle into that which made the principal ornament of the gardens of the palace of Noisy; this handsome body was stretched upon a pile of flowers, near a wood pile, which had been raised to burn it, and the green cradle adorned with garlands of the same flowers, was at his feet. This spectacle made the tender Alia almost out of
her

her senses, she concealed however her grief from the little Poinçon, that he might not hinder her from flinging herself, as she intended to do, into the midst of the flames which were to consume the body of her lover. Poinçon who saw himself dragged against his will to a place he did not want to go to, concealed himself behind a palisade with Alia, not being able to prevail with her to avoid seeing this sad and mournful spectacle. Every thing being ready for the ceremony, the inconsolable Merlin placed the body of the prince on the top of the pile, surrounded with gums and perfumes the most delicious Arabia afforded, he put the green cradle at his feet, and holding up a flambeau he had in his hand, he lift up his eyes to heaven, saying inhumane Alia, whose beauty has been fatal to my repose, and yet more fatal to the most faithful of lovers; come and satiate thy cruelty, with the pleasure of seeing consumed the victim, which you have sacrificed to your rage! But tremble at the horrors which shall surround you every where, when thy cradle shall be reduced to ashes. As soon as he had spoke these words, he went to set fire to the pile, and the unfortunate Alia was just going to fling herself into it, when the shouts which
were

were heard in the air, made every body lift up their eyes, Merlin stopt, and some moments after he saw the mother of the Sheaths descend in her chariot with the Druid. Ah! my pretty mistress, cried Poinçon, let us run to meet the mother of the Sheaths, there she is, no doubt, she comes to our assistance with my lord the Druid your father. As soon as the sorceress descended from her chariot, she took the flambeau out of Merlin's hands, and the Druid took the ring from his daughter's finger to give it to the little Poinçon, with an order to seek with the utmost diligence the enchanted knife, without forgetting the precious gold which served it instead of a sheath. Merlin on seeing the mother of the Sheaths felt both joy and fear; he knew that he deserved her reproaches, and he knew also what he could do in her favour; whilst the sorceress made some complaints to Merlin; and Merlin was excusing himself as well as he could, in begging her to let vengeance give place to generosity, they saw the little Poinçon arrive, all over shining with brightness through the lustre of the gold and the knife which he carried. The mother of the Sheaths started up, and it was thought she would have swooned

with joy at this sight. She received it from the hands of the Druid; then raising her voice, as they took the prince from the pile, says she, he hath not seen the gloomy borders of Acheron; this knife was never fatal but to criminals and villains. But why should I lengthen out this narrative by tiresome circumstances in order to unravel its history? All the persons concerned in this adventure found their account; the mother of the Sheath's her knife, Druid his book, and Alia her cradle. Our hero who was not dangerously wounded found himself in the hands of the three persons, whose art was capable of bringing to life all the heroes dead since Cyrus the great, and these three persons uniting their abilities in favour of the handsome prince of Noisy, one may readily conclude he was restored to the beautiful Alia, more charming, more agreeable, and with more tenderness than ever. Aurora broke forth upon this kind of resurrection, and the sun who set the preceding night upon places full of mourning and affliction, saw them at his return filled with the most lively joy.

In the midst of this joy the giant Moulineau, mounted on his enormous horse, sounded his horn three times at the gate of the castle, to demand his prisoner and his
ram,

ram, or to challenge to a combat all the inhabitants of the castle, in case of a refusal. Alia's lover who was desirous of signalizing himself in her sight, accepted the challenge, and ordered him to be told that the prince of Noisy, lately arrived from a long journey, would meet him three days hence, on the bridge raised by the ram, to determine the quarrel there, and dispute the glory of being the charming Alia's.

The charming Alia, in the transports which this unexpected change of fortune caused in her, felt a thousand times more love for the prince of Noisy, in his natural form, than she had felt of hatred toward him when he was in the shape of a ram. The prince, a man of the most spirit, and the best behaved of his time, made his acknowledgements to her, in so complaisant a manner, as caused her to forget her past misfortunes. Alia endued with as much curiosity as tenderness, was desirous of knowing, of her lover, how he became a ram; the prince told her that being lost in thought the night she flung him the book, he had insensibly gone on to the brink of the Seine, when day beginning to appear, he had the curiosity to open it, but had only found there the signs of the Zodiac, and having considered that of the

ram, he was induced to read what was under it, and at the third reading of these mysterious words, he was all at once transformed into a ram; it would be useless, added he, to talk to you of my astonishment and vexation, upon my finding myself changing from one form to another, when the giant arrived, whose mute would have strangled me, if he had not by chance found something in my form that pleased him. I have not quitted his service since my metamorphosis. Nevertheless this book, of which I decyphered something every day in spite of its obscurity, gave me hopes that I should sometime or other reassume my former figure; it is by the means of this I knew how to raise a bridge in an instant by its assistance. I recovered the use of my speech, by its aid, I rendered myself invisible when I replied to the sorrowful expressions of the beautiful Alia, and at last it was by this book that I came to know that the liquid gold would deliver me from my enchantment as soon as I touched it. There my pretty Alia, continued the prince this is what made me resolve to go to the Druid your father, where I did not reckon to present you a victim, I was also in such a consternation at the marks of indignation you gave me before you struck me with
the

the knife, that I received that blow with a great deal of indifference.

The end of this tale renewed the griefs and sorrows of Alia, but the presence of her dear prince soon comforted her, above all, when she understood Merlin and the Druid agreed together that she should be united to the prince of Noisy in three days. This happy day was also appointed for the combat, and in spite of the fears of the beautiful Alia, who could not comprehend how a man who truly loved should be willing to fight the same day he was to possess what he loved, notwithstanding, I say, all her uneasiness, the handsome prince of Noisy kept his word.

You do not doubt, madam, but this combat ended, as combats always do between giants and heroes. Signor Moulineau was overset at the first onset, and falling from the highest part of the bridge to the bottom of the ditch, he broke his neck without being pitied by the spectators. Never were nuptials celebrated with so much magnificence, and never did persons in that state enjoy so much happiness.

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
THORN-FLOWER.

ABOUT two thousand four hundred and fifty three leagues from hence, there is a very fine country, called Cachemira. In this country there reigned a Caliph; this Caliph had a daughter, and this daughter had a face; but it was wished more than once that she had not had one, her beauty was supportable till she was fifteen years old, but when she came to that age, it was too much; she had the finest neck in the world, her nose was a masterpiece; the lillies of Cachemira, a thousand times whiter than ours, looked of a dirty hue when near her neck, and the fresh blown rose would have appeared as withered when put in competition with the carnation of her lips. Her forehead was singular in its kind, in regard to its form and brightness, its whiteness was relieved at top by the hair, blacker and more shining than jet,

jet, which made them give her the name of Luizanta; the whole of her face seemed an assemblage of so many wonders; but her eyes undid all. No body could look on them long enough to distinguish their colour, for as soon as they met your looks, you seemed as if struck with a flash of lightning.

When she was eighteen years old, the Caliph her father was used to make her come to him that he might admire himself in his works, and make his concubines say a thousand silly things concerning her youthful charms; for ever since that time they put out the candles in the middle of the night, and he would not have any other light but what her pretty eyes afforded, but all this, as they say, was only children's play. But as soon as her eyes had arrived at their full force, all jesting about them was at an end.

The flower of the nobility died away miserably, and every day there was carried to the grave two or three petit-maitres, who had thought of nothing but ogling her fine eyes; for when men looked at her, the fire passed quickly from her eyes to the very bottom of their hearts, and in less than twenty-four hours they died, pronouncing her name with tender-

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
THORN-FLOWER.

ABOUT two thousand four hundred and fifty three leagues from hence, there is a very fine country, called Cachemira. In this country there reigned a Caliph; this Caliph had a daughter, and this daughter had a face; but it was wished more than once that she had not had one, her beauty was supportable till she was fifteen years old, but when she came to that age, it was too much; she had the finest neck in the world, her nose was a masterpiece; the lillies of Cachemira, a thousand times whiter than ours, looked of a dirty hue when near her neck, and the fresh blown rose would have appeared as withered when put in competition with the carnation of her lips. Her forehead was singular in its kind, in regard to its form and brightness, its whiteness was relieved at top by the hair, blacker and more shining than jet,

jet, which made them give her the name of Luizanta; the whole of her face seemed an assemblage of so many wonders; but her eyes undid all. No body could look on them long enough to distinguish their colour, for as soon as they met your looks, you seemed as if struck with a flash of lightning.

When she was eighteen years old, the Caliph her father was used to make her come to him that he might admire himself in his works, and make his concubines say a thousand silly things concerning her youthful charms; for ever since that time they put out the candles in the middle of the night, and he would not have any other light but what her pretty eyes afforded, but all this, as they say, was only children's play. But as soon as her eyes had arrived at their full force, all jesting about them was at an end.

The flower of the nobility died away miserably, and every day there was carried to the grave two or three petit-maitres, who had thought of nothing but ogling her fine eyes; for when men looked at her, the fire passed quickly from her eyes to the very bottom of their hearts, and in less than twenty-four hours they died, pronouncing her name with tender-

ness, and humbly thanking those brilliant eyes for the honour they had received in dying by their glances. In regard to the fair sex it was otherwise ; those who looked on her at a distance received no other damage but a dimness of sight, which lasted all their life ; but those who waited on her, payed a little dearer for this honour, for the lady who dressed her, four maids of honour, and their old governess, were all blinded by it. The grandees of the kingdom, who saw the hopes of their families extinguish, by the fire which this fatal lustre kindled ; begged the Caliph to remedy a disorder which deprived their sons of their lives, and their daughters of their sight. The Caliph assembled his council to consider what was to be done ; his Seneschal presided in it, and he was the most foolish man who had ever presided there. The Caliph nevertheless, notwithstanding the weakness of his intellects, had made him his prime minister. As soon as this affair was proposed, the council was divided on the measures to be taken. Some advised to put Luizanta into a convent, supporting their opinion with saying, that it would be no great damage to deprive three or four dozen of old nuns with their abbesses of their sight for the good of the state ; others advised

vised to issue out letters *de cachet* to close her eyes till a new order ; and there were some who proposed to put them out so dexterously, that she should not feel any pain from it ; and offered to show them the method.

The Caliph who was very fond of her, did not approve of any of these methods ; the Seneschal perceived it, who poor man had been crying for an hour, and beginning his harangue, before he had wiped his eyes ; I wept, Sire, says he, for the death of my son the count, a gentleman of the sword, but that stood him in no stead against the glances of the princess's eyes ; he was buried yesterday, but the business to day is about your majesty's service ; I must forget that I am a father, that I may remember that I am a Seneschal. My grief has not prevented my hearkening to the counsels which have been given you, and asking the company's pardon, they all appear to me absurd : My advice is this : I have had for some time a gentleman with me, I don't know from whence he came, nor who he is, but this I know very well, that since he has been with me, I never concern myself with the affairs of the house ; he is a Dæmon who knows every thing, and although I have the honour to be your

Seneschal, I am but a blockhead in comparison of him ; my wife tells me the same every day. Now if your majesty thinks proper to consult him on so difficult an affair as this is, I perceive myself you will receive satisfaction from it. With all my heart, my Seneschal, says the Caliph, as I should be very glad to see a man who has more wit than you. They sent to fetch him, but he refused to come, because they had not shut up the princess with her fine eyes, but being assured that he should not see her he was not long in coming ; he was neither well nor ill made, but had something agreeable in his air and face. Speak to him boldly, Sire, says the Seneschal, he understands all languages ; the Caliph who understood none but his own, and that only as it was spoke among the vulgar, after having talked ridiculously for some time, in order to find out his genius ; my friend, says he to him, what is your name ? Tarare, answers he ; Tarare says the Caliph, Tarare says the counsellors, Tarare says the chancellor. I ask you, says the Caliph, how you call yourself ? I know it well, replied he ; ah well, says the Caliph, Tarare says the other, making his reverence ; and why do you call yourself Tarare ? because it is not my name. And how is that ? said the

the Caliph ; it is because I have quitted my own name to take that upon me, says he, so I call myself Tarare, although it is not my name. There is nothing so clear, said the Caliph, and yet I should have been above a month in finding it out ; and well, Tarare, what shall we do with my daughter ? What you please, answers he. But yet, adds the Caliph, whatever you please, said always Tarare. To cut short, says the Caliph, my Seneschal told me, that we must consult you on the misfortune, that she lies under of killing or blinding all who look upon her ; Sire, says Tarare, the fault is in the gods who made her so handsome, and not in her eyes. But if it is a misfortune to have fine eyes, this is what, according to my little judgment, ought to be done to remedy it ; the sorceress Serena knows all the secrets of nature, send her a trifle of a million or two, and if she does not teach you a remedy for the princess's eyes, you may conclude there is none at all. In the mean while my advice is, that you contrive some head-dress of a beautiful green entirely to cover the hair of Luizanta ; for I am very much deceived if the shining of her hair joined to that of her eyes, is not partly the cause that the looking at her is so dangerous ; and to remove all obstacles, I

will myself, if you majesty thinks proper, consult the forcerefs for you, since I know where she lives. The Caliph approved of this advice very much ; he was charged with a purse of brilliant diamonds, and half a bushel of large pearls for Serena, and set off in spite of the repinings of the Seneschal's lady.

He was a month on his journey, during which time the eyes of Luizanta did more mischief than ever : It was not because she was not provided with a green head-dress ; nor that it had not a little deadened the lustre of her eyes, but at the same time her complexion took a light hue, which put her into such a passion, that she pulled it off and threw it at her tirewoman's head ; and her eyes became more mischievous than ever. The Caliph caused processions to be made, and public prayers to be offered up, that heaven would be pleased to look down with pity on his poor people, or prevent his daughter looking on them when Tarare returned : And here is what he said to the Caliph, sitting in his council. The forcerefs Serena sends her compliments to you, and thanks you for your present, but would not accept it ; she says she has a great secret, whereby she can make the eyes of the princess as harmless as your majesty's, without

without depriving them of their lustre, provided you furnish her with four things, four, says the Caliph, four hundred if you please, but softly, if you please, Sire, says Tarare. The first of these things is a portrait of Luizanta; the second, a thorn flower; the third, a luminous hat; and the last is a singing mare: What is all that, says the Caliph? I am going to tell you, Sire. Serena has a sister who is called Dentua, almost as knowing as herself; but as her art only furnishes her with the means of doing mischief, she is nothing more than a sorceress, while the other is an honest magician, now this sorceress stole away the daughter of Serena, when she was but an infant, but at present she is grown up, she plagues her night and day to marry a little monster of a son she has got. It is this daughter who is called the Thorn-Flower, and who is in the witch's power: She hath a hat set so thick with diamonds, and these diamonds so brilliant, that they shoot out their rays like the sun. More than all that, she hath a mare, who at every hair hath a golden bell, the sound of which is so harmonious, that one hears ravishing music whenever she stirs. These, Sire, are the four things Serena demands, informing you at the same time that whoever undertakes

takes to take them away from Dentua, it will be as impossible for them not to fall into her hands, as it will be for all the powers on earth to get them out again when once in them. The Caliph and his council began to weep, seeing that by the hardness of the conditions, there was no remedy to their misfortunes. Tarare was moved at it, and addressing himself to the Caliph, Sire, says he, I know a man who would be capable of furnishing the first demand if he undertook it. What, says the Caliph, paint my daughter? and who is fool enough to dare attempt a thing so impossible? Tarare answers the other, Tarare says the Caliph, Tarare says the Seneschal with all the council, and at last all the boys who played about the court cried out Tarare. Sire, says the Seneschal, if he undertakes it, he will go through with it; and when that is done, says the Caliph, who will undertake the rest? I, says the rash Tarare; but on condition that when I am named by chance, they shall let me alone, without handing my name from one to another like so many ecchoes, and that when the princess shall be in the situation you wish her to be, she shall be permitted whom she pleases for a husband. The Caliph gave him his word for it, and the Seneschal

neschal who loved to be doing, expedited his letters patent. They were at a loss what method to take to paint a face, which no body could look upon without dying, but this difficulty was soon got over.

There was a man who had travelled a great deal, and who had found among the curious remarks he had made upon every country, that in eclipses the people tinge a bit of glass with some dark colour, that they may look at the sun without being hurt. Upon this idea he made some telescopes of very gloomy glass, and having tried them against the sun just at mid-day, he went to Luizanta with that which he was to use in the painting her picture. This piece of rashness surprised her, and to punish him for it, she opened her fine eyes, as much as she could, but it was in vain; for after having examined all the wonders of her beauty under the protection of his glasses, he set about his painting. No body surpassed him in his art, although he had not made it his profession. His taste was of the utmost delicacy, but no body was so well read in beauty; in the mean time Luizanta's made not in his heart the progress he had believed it would, her shape was less perfect than her face, that secured him for some time, but he was obliged to yield
at

at last. He then made use of every thing his genius furnished him with to please her; she was not insensible to the praises he bestowed on her beauty, while under the pretence of diverting her, during an occupation, where vivacity is commonly laid asleep, he repeated to her such agreeable accounts of his travels, that she could have listened to him all her life. The little he had to recommend him in his figure, did no ways prevent his genius having the same effect, than if he had been the best made man in the world. She loved him then, and was sorry her portrait was so soon finished; but she was more so, when he took his leave of her to go upon an adventure as dangerous as that which he had already undertaken. She told him at parting, that he went to labour for himself, in exposing his person for her; since if he succeeded, she should be at liberty to choose a husband, and if he did not, she would never choose one. In those times as soon as a beauty perceived in herself a tenderness for any one, she was in haste to declare; and princesses were equally so with others; Tarare flung himself ten or twelve times at her feet, to express a transport he did not feel, he was astonished to find his heart so little affected with his good fortune, for he perceived very well that he

did

did not love her so much as he professed. The portrait of Luizanta was the admiration of all the court ; it was painted so much to the life, that they could scarcely bear to look on it although it was only a painting. Tarare discovered to the Caliph the secret by which he was enabled to paint his daughter, and let him have the glasses to look at her sometimes, recommending it to him to do it but seldom for fear of accidents ; but the Caliph did not hearken to this advice and found the ill effects of it. They offered Tarare money and troops to facilitate his enterprize, but he refused both, and trusting to fortune entirely, set off without any assistance but his courage and industry. The country of Cachemira was a region of pleasure ; the flowers grew up under his feet as he walked along ; peaches and figs fell into his mouth when he lifted up his head ; the choicest melons presented themselves on all sides ; a continual spring rendered the air sweet, and the firmament serene. Was he inclined to repose ? a large orange-tree, situated by the side of a trickling brook, offered its shade to him, while the birds sung him to sleep with the most tender airs in the world ; for there was not a nightingale in all the kingdom who did not understand music, nor a linnet

linnet who did not sing a tune at first sight; but as soon as he had passed the mountains which encompass this charming country on all sides, he found nothing but deserts, or woods full of beasts so fierce, that tygers and leopards are but sheep in comparison of them. However he was obliged to cross these forests to come to the dwelling of Dentu. It is said these mischievous beasts knew his design; for instead of running up to him, they extended themselves on the right and left, and some dozen of griffins placed themselves in front. He understood the art of war very well; so, after having examined their countenance, he guessed their design, and as he was not a match for them he had recourse to a stratagem. He waited till night came on, keeping a good look out; and about the second watch, having made up a faggot of the driest boughs, he could find he set it on fire with a piece of steel, and put it at the end of a long pole, and then marched to meet the enemy; he knew very well that he was not in love enough, to dare to invoke Luizanta; so without recommending himself to his goddess, the fierce Tarare rushed furiously into one of the most rough adventures he had ever attempted. There is no beast so furious as to be proof against fire; as soon as they

they saw the glare of the lighted taggot, they began to startle, he perceived it, and pushed forward making a great hollowing, and having dispersed them, he got out of the wood by the break of day. He did not dare to repose himself near so dangerous a place, though he had need enough of it; the sun arose, and the first rays it darted forth, pointed out to him something brilliant in the middle of a little path; he followed this path, but after having walked a long time to get up to what he saw, it always appeared to be at the same distance; he was obliged to sit down through vexation and weariness, and the moment he was on the grass it mounted into the air, and the finest bird in the world came and sat on a bush, about four steps from him; its wings were of gold and azure, the rest of it the colour of fire and white, its bill and nails were of gold, its form that of a parrot, only a little larger. Tarare, who considered it attentively, was charmed with its beauty; something more than curiosity instigated him to approach it, but he was afraid it would fly away. The parrot did not dream of any body there; for after having for some time looked into the bush, he took out a little bag, which he had hid in the ground; and having untied it very cleverly,

cleaverly, took out a pinch or two of salt, which he put down to peck at, after first spreading it about with his feet. Parrot, my dear heart, says Tarare, don't eat any of it, it will do you harm. The parrot burst out a laughing, looking at him however very seriously : Bless me, continued the other, what a lovely parrot ! but why do I call it a parrot ? it is a phenix Tarare says the parrot and flew away. Tarare having lost sight of him took up the bag of salt, and put it in the path where he was, hoping the bird would return to him, since he had got its provision. I cannot conceive, said he, what could scare him away ; but how comes it that even birds, all of them, repeat Tarare as soon as they hear it pronounced ; this however he spoke to himself ? But why am I advised to take upon me this name and quit my own ? is it on account of the adventure of the magpies ? But no body will believe me, when I tell them the history of my life, and I do not know whether I ought to believe it myself who have seen it.

He went on the greatest part of the day through barren and uninhabited places, entertaining himself with a thousand different thoughts which came into his head, among which Luizanta often bore a part, but she did

did not continue in his remembrance with such long and agreeable reflections as those do whom we passionately love ; in those castles in the air, where our wishes are incomparably better lodged than good sense. The night came on, he was not able to proceed through weariness and hunger, when turning his eyes on every side, he perceived a miserable thatched house among some bushes, he there found an honest little old man and his wife, as to the rest it had all the appearance of poor entertainment, and miserable lodging ; but having something else in his head than pomp or good cheer, he resolved to pass the night there ; he met with a good reception, for he gave them more money than would have purchased all the house ; the master of the house's son came in presently after ; the young gentleman as ragged as you would desire. He brought with him two miserable goats, who mixed with the company, having no other apartment for them, Tarare gathered from these poor people all the light he could, for the enterprize he had in view ; as soon as day appeared, he changed clothes with the son, covered half his face with a plaister, bought the goats, and taking up his bag of salt he took the field, and bent his march toward the place
where

where they told him he should soon see the palace of the witch ; but his hosts advised him not to go, least he should not succeed. He had not walked a great while before he heard a kind of harmony, which sounded the more melodious the nearer he approached it : He was at a loss for what caused it ; and still driving his goats for some time before him, whilst he observed every thing about him, he stopped in a little grove, across which there runs a little brook. The neighbourhood of so dangerous a place, and the nearness of a rash adventure, caused him some reflections ; these reflections some emotions, but neither fear nor repentance. He was continually saying, it is nothing to undertake without one accomplishes it, &c. While he was fortifying himself so, by all the magnanimities of an opera, which came into his head, he saw a person arrive who took up all his intention. As to her freshness, one would have taken her for Aurora in a summer's day ; by her shape, one of the best made of the goddesses ; by her gracefulness all the graces met together in one person. She was clothed in a plain dress, but a natural arrangement, supported by an air of neatness, shewed itself in such a manner in spite of her dress, that she appeared as a princess

in

in disguise. He viewed her three times from head to foot as she advanced toward the brook ; and three times he swore softly, that he had never seen feet so well turned, nor so much agreeableness in the form they supported. He turned himself away as if he was following his goats ; she filled a pitcher which she had brought with her, sat herself down on the edge of the brook, and clasping her hands together, kept looking in a melancholy manner on the gliding of its waters. He soon approached again, when having uttered some sighs, she began to say : No, never creature was so unhappy ; alas ! continued she, since I am sure my misfortunes will never change but for the worse, how can I resolve to live ? She stopped for some time after this reflection ; but it was only to weep : And a moment after, happy birds, said she, who have nothing to fear but the elements, men, and other birds, who make a continual war upon you, however you enjoy liberty, in spite of all your alarms, and you are not condemned to the continual sight of the most frightful creature in the world. As soon as she had done speaking, she burst out into tears ; and after having washed her face and hands, she took her pitcher and went away. Tarare had attentively examined her, without her
having

having taken any notice of him ; he had found her person in every respect charming ; and with her air, he observed that she had a natural genius, good nature, a sincere heart, and nevertheless a great spirit. It was something to find so many things in a moment ; yet he was not deceived : He had no great difficulty in guessing who she was. He passed the day in this thicket as pleasantly as he could ; and night coming on, he left his goats there and advanced into the plain to make some discovery. The further he went the more at a loss he was to know where he was going : He had wandered about a long time in this manner, if a sudden glare of light had not discovered to him a plaistered house about two hundred steps from him : The light disappearing, he groped his way up to it. He did not doubt but it was the witch's, and judging it not proper to show himself at the door, he clambered up as softly as he could upon the top of the house.

It was covered with nothing but straw, and having listened some time without hearing any thing, he removed off the straw, as gently as he could, from the place where he was, and by the opening he made, he saw the horrible Dentua, who muttering some barbarous words flung some herbs and
 roots





roots into a great kettle which was on the fire; she stirred it round with a tooth she took out of her mouth which was two ells long; after she had stirred about all these drugs for some time, she flung into the kettle three toads, three bats, and began saying: "By my hat, by my mare, by my fury, by my malice let us finish this enchantment; 'tis to deplume my lover, that he may unite his power with mine." Her lover my stars! cried out Tarare; this must certainly be one of the monsters who attempted to stop me in the wood; in the mean time the witch every now and then put her finger into the kettle, which had a nail to it almost as long as her tooth; it was to taste this delightful composition to see how the witchcraft went on. At the corner of the fire there was a little monster, so ugly and so crooked, that he would fright one more than his mother. The beautiful creature that Tarare had seen in the little wood, was on her knees, before this monster, and with arms of snow, and hands of ivory, was washing the most nasty and disagreeable feet that ever were washed. Tarare saw plainly enough that she was extremely vexed at it, and he was not less so. Dentua perceiving the poor girl to cry, put up her great tooth, and looking askew

at her; untoward wretch, says he, dare you serve with so ill a grace him who in two days time will be your husband, instead of which you ought to thank your stars that you are to belong to the son of Dentua, and to have such a husband? Tarare could not help starting at these words; but the witch lifting up her eyes at the noise he made, hastily came down for fear of being surprised, regained the little thicket as fast as he could; he passed the rest of the night in thinking of what he had seen, and contriving about his enterprize. The following morning brought the girl again to the side of the brook. She returned thither with all her charms, all her grief, and love, and above all that, with those wretched filthy clothes, and extreme dirty linen, which she began to wash, at the same time crying very heartily.

This second view, at the side of the same brook, increased his compassion toward her, and made him feel he should presently have need of hers. She was leaning toward the brook, washing these filthy clothes, and seemed as if she would have flung herself in, through despair, if there had been water enough to have drowned her. The posture she was in, gave Tarare an opportunity of seeing the finest turned neck in the world, he

he praised it to the skies, without daring, however, to flatter himself, that he should ever have any thing to do with it. He believed it time to discover himself to her; but before he spoke to her, he was desirous to attract her attention, and taking a flute out of his pocket, he began to play an affecting air, he did not paint half so well as he played on the flute, and that is saying a great deal. She turned her eyes with surprise towards him; his figure and manner of playing did not agree together, when he found that she listened to him, he made as if he was going to look after his goats who had got at some distance: No, says she, when he had left off playing, the harmony of that sound is not so agreeable; as is the happiness, continued she, of that poor man, who spends his life in keeping goats! Alas! with all his miserable appearance I would with all my heart be this miserable creature! But what makes him come near so detestable a place, whilst he lets his pitiful herd go so far off from him? What makes him comes near the dwelling of Dentua?—He comes to deliver you, you beautiful flower of the Thorn, says he, making up to her all at once. She was so surprised, she thought she should have swooned away, but he did not give her

time: Yes, says he, I will deliver you, or I will loose my life. Alas! says she, poor boy, you may die, but you cannot save me, since to do that you must disengage me from the slavery I lie under, and that is impossible. You see me now about the most disagreeable employment in the world, nevertheless I would spend my life in it with all my heart, if I was not afraid of something more disgusting, they want me to marry Dentua's son. I know all that, says Turare, I will deliver you from it. She stared over and over at a man who spoke with so much confidence, and who appeared to know her situation; he had only had the pleasure of seeing her, and had not yet perceived she had took notice of him; yet he preferred her in his mind to all he had ever seen: He took off his plaister to appear less disfigured, I dont know if he did right, nevertheless, if she was not much affected, with his face, she was accustomed enough to his manner of speaking. He said to her that he was not what he appeared, and had undertaken to carry away, her, the shining hat, and the ringing mare; that he had undertaken all this for the service of a princess, who was reckoned the wonder of the world, and whom he began to think of no more. How can I, said he, think

think of her, when I have seen the charming Thorn-flower, it is she who will from henceforth will be the object of all my enterprises. She did not appear to be at all offended at the declaration, nor displeased with the sacrifice; the little time they were together, Tarare was confirmed in all that he had first conceived of her genius and sentiments; he conjured her to trust to him every thing regarding the execution of his enterprise: He only asked her to consent to what should be proposed by a man who would suffer two or three hundred thousand deaths, rather than offend her. He informed himself exactly from her, where the stable of the ringing mare was; he knew they would not give themselves the trouble to fasten her in, there being no likelihood that any body would steal a mare, who did not so much as stir without being heard, and the harmony would be much louder, when it went out of the stable. He asked no more; she did not dare to stay any longer, and when they parted, she looked after him as long as she could.

As soon as he had lost sight of her, he recommended himself earnestly to that fortune which had never abandoned him, to that industry, of which he had more need than ever, and to all the firmness of mind

his courage could supply him with. He perceived very well that he was inspired with something more than address and good sense, he imagined that it was his new passion, but it was quite another thing:---Nevertheless, being fully determined to follow all these unknown impulses, he began by thrashing some mischievous little rascals, that he saw come with some bird-lime, to catch the poor little birds; he took their bird-lime from them, for fear they should use it while he was absent, and as soon as night came on, he set forward for the stable of the ringing-mare, carrying his little bag of salt, and the bird-lime he took from the little boys: A fine equipage for an enterprise like his; fine arms to secure him from the formidable power of the witch, from whom he was going to ravish all her treasures.

A melodious noise conducted him strait to the ringing-mare; he got there just as she was going to lay down. She was the finest, gentlest and best beast in the world. He stroked her softly with his hand, as he saluted her; she was so affected with it, that she would have given him her life; for she was accustomed to see nobody but the witch's son, who fed her, and who often ill treated her, besides he was so frightful,
that

that she often had rather gone without her victuals than see him. When he saw her in this disposition, he filled all her bells one after another with dung, and covered them with the bird-lime he brought to prevent their unstopping. When that was done the pretty ringer raised herself up of her own accord to see that there was nothing about her which could make a noise. Tarare repeated his caresses, saddled and bridled her, and leading her out of the stable set forward for the dwelling of Dentua. As soon as he got there, he posted himself on the top of the house as he had done the day before ; he did not know why this bag of salt was in his hands. He saw through the same opening, much the same objects, as before, only the poor Thorn-flower seemed to be more unfortunate ; for the first time she only washed the feet of Dentillon ; but now the little monster wanting to take some freedoms on the foot of the approaching marriage, went about gruntling like a hog, because she had the boldness to repulse his familiarities.

The witch forced her to sit down at the corner of the fire, while Dentillon stretched himself by her, laid his head in her lap and went to sleep. The unfortunate Thorn-flower did not dare to show the horror it

filled her with; but she could not refrain from tears, which yet she was obliged to hide them from the witch.

Tarare felt all her afflictions; Dentua always attentive to her witchcraft, stirred up the composition with her great tooth from the very bottom of the kettle. She cast in there, from time to time, some new poison, repeating what she had said the preceding night. Tarare wanted to put something of his own there, and from the top of the chimney he emptied his bag of salt. The witch did not perceive it, tho' when she tasted it the first time, she was startled, she tasted it again, and finding the enchantment spoiled by an ingredient which apparently was not proper for it, she set up such a horrible howl, you would have said fifteen thousand owls had set up a screek at once. She immediately took the cauldron off the fire, and gave a box of the ear to the innocent Thorn-flower, who had liked to have fell backward, and awaking Dentillon, he gave her another for having awaked him. Tarare who was witness of this, felt fifty blows and as many stabs of a poignard in his heart. His anger got the better of his prudence: He had been at a loss to revenge it, if Dentua after having praised her son for so noble a resentment, had

had not ordered him to fetch some water from the brook. Go, my darling, said she, this villainous beast will take my hat to light you; I would send her there alone, if it was not that it has no virtue but when it is on the head of a girl, and whoever carries that must carry nothing else: Go, my son, take the pitcher, dont fear spirits, they dare not approach you when the hat shines; and I promise you, that you shall marry this beggar, who makes such a difficulty about it, as soon as you return. Very well, I consent to that, says Tarare, as he was getting down, provided it is not till his return: He took care not to speak that too loud. As soon as he had set foot on the ground he ran as fast as he could to post himself between the house and the brook; he had scarcely got there, but he saw all the places about look as bright as if it was noon day: The charming Thorn-flower was the first object which presented itself to his eyes; she appeared so brilliant in spite of the lustre of her hat, that it seemed to have borrowed its brightness from her. The little monster who accompanied her, could scarcely drag himself along, under the weight of an empty pitcher; the little rascal was not only so crooked as to excite horror, but he limped like a dog, and at the same

time so short, that it was in vain for him to attempt to take his mistress under the arm, he could not reach to the height of her pocket : He stuck close to her, drawing himself after her as well as he could, for she made long strides to get rid of him ; her heart beat so strongly with fear and hope, that she was almost spent when she came to the place where Tarare waited for her ; the sight of him made her start ; she looked red, a moment after she turned pale : I don't know if he perceived these different agitations, nor how he accounted for them if he did ; but after having heartened her up, seizing Dentillon, he wrapped his head up in his handkerchief, and taking him under his arm, as you would a spaniel, he gave his hand to the Thorn-flower, and advanced toward the stable a great pace.

He found the ringer in the same situation he had left her. He instructed the Thorn-flower in his design in a few words ; she was so astonished that she approved of every thing without understanding of any thing ; I am afraid, said she ; I don't fear for myself, that would be to be too fearful : You have already done so much, that I ought to rest satisfied with what you tell me ; as to us let us save ourselves with all speed, since there is nothing but that can save us ;
but

but what shall we do with this little monster? I will slay him alive, says he, for the fear he has put you in of marrying him, and for the box of the ear he gave you, if it was not that his mother would be as much afflicted at this mild death, as if I had intended it for herself. The generous Thorn-flower who could not consent to any other cruelties but those of rigorous beauties toward their tender lovers, was going to ask favour for this miserable wretch; no, says Tarare to her, don't be alarmed, all the harm we shall do him, is that he shall go at his ease, while we shall be exposed to fatigue: I beg at the same time you will allow him some favour as a token to remember us, since he has lost all hope of having you for a wife; permit him to wear your head-dress till he has the honour of seeing you again. The Thorn-flower could not devise what he was about to say; but she did not think it a time for mirth at such a conjuncture; as to the little Dentillon when he was coiffed, his visage appeared still more detestable; he had heard the threatening of the slaying, but when he saw they had designed him only to the carrying his mistress's head-dress, he thought himself safe. But Tarare having tied his feet and hands, and thrust a sufficient

quantity of hay into his mouth to hinder him from crying out ; he covered all his body with hay, so that there was nothing to be seen but the back part of his head dressed fine enough. This ceremony finished, after having carested the ringer, he mounted upon her, took the Thorn-flower before him, set out on his journey, and turned his back on the palace of the witch.

The ringer outstripped the wind, and carried him easier than a boat. Tarare willing to make the most of her swiftness, layed the bridle on her neck for an hour, but reckoning he had gone fifty leagues, he thought he had got far enough to let the mare take breath ; he had reason to be content, after having put an end to so terrible an adventure, in delivering her he began to be in love with ; he took breath without any alarms, and clasped in his arms the person he loved, without giving offence : Happy situation for a man who having undertaken an enterprize for glory, finished it for love. He had no other fear but that of displeasing the object he loved, and that was enough, he was no so wrapped up in himself, as to flatter himself with any hopes from his figure ; he knew full well that without the assistance of his genius and his love, there was nothing in him
very

very engaging ; every look he took at the Thorn-flower had redoubled his passion ; and it was not to diminish it that he held her in his arms, tho' in the most respectful manner in the world.

O charming Thorn-flower, said he to her, (perceiving she still trembled) you have nothing to fear from Dentua, and certainly nothing ought to make you uneasy, now you are with a man whose sentiments toward you are such as they ought to be. I know all your merit, for I dare say no body knows it better, but at the same time I dare not tell you that I feel it to the very bottom of my heart ; it would be very extraordinary if it was otherwise. Some particular reasons obliged me to quit my country ; when I left it, I had no fixed intention or design ; I did not know very well what in the world I went to seek after, but I know too well at present that it was you ; give me leave to divert you with my narrative.

The Thorn-flower being at a loss to answer so many things said to her all at once, leaned her head gently against him, as if reposing herself ; he was very well pleased with this kind of answer, and without waiting for any other, he went on in this manner. I am the son of a little prince, whose
domi-

dominions are very little, but to make amends, his subjects are rich, content, and faithful. I had a brother, what is become of him, I know not ; we were no more than six years of age when my father took us in private, and talking to us as if we had been people of understanding : My children, says he, as ye are twins, birth-right cannot decide the succession between you ; nevertheless, as my dominions are too small to be divided, I expect that one of the two give up his claim to the other, and to the end that he who makes the concession shall not repent of it ; I have two gifts to bestow, the least of which may make his fortune elsewhere ; and these gifts are wit and beauty ; but as these advantages must be separated, let each chuse which is most agreeable to him ; we answered both at once ; I asked for wit, and my brother for beauty. My father having embraced us, told us, that each should have in time his choice. My father called him Phenix and me Chaffinch ; and if we had had other brothers, I do not doubt but he would have called them, some blackbirds, others fisks, nightingales, or thistle-finches, according to our number ; for one of the follies of this good little prince was his fondness for birds ; the other was that he would have his

his children call him Sir my father, when we spoke of him, which he could never get me to do ; but Phenix exceeded his desires ; that perhaps was the reason that he kept his word better with him than he did with me ; for at the age of eighteen years, they had never seen any one more excellent in our sex ; but for me, although they flattered me on my witty sayings, I looked on that as what they say of all children, when their fathers and mothers tire every body with their witty sayings ; I had wit enough to know that I had not enough of it. Although our inclinations were different, there was a perfect agreement between my brother and me. I spent my time in reading all the books I could lay my hands on, good or bad, I soon distinguished the one from the other, and finding myself reduced to a very small number, I was almost vexed at a delicacy which retrenched the greatest part of my reading ; Phenix thought of nothing else but setting off his person to the best advantage. At length our father died, and with great ease of mind, as he left us in such perfect harmony ; as soon as he was interred, we began for the first time to be of different opinions, and to enter into a contest one with another ; but in a dispute which was very
obsti-

obstinate, the contention was on account of each being willing to give up his right to the other ; Phenix struck me to the heart, when he told me, that as I was the most capable of governing, I merited the most to succeed ; as for himself, with fortune's aid, and with the qualifications he was possessed of, let him go where he would there was no danger of his finding a maintenance. It was to no purpose that I offered other good reasons to put him in possession of our little principality ; I could not persuade him ; so that after a long debate we agreed to part that day, and each seek their fortune for themselves, on condition that he who should be first settled, should endeavour to inform the other of it, in order to his returning to take possession of our common inheritance. We left faithful ministers to govern in our absence ; and Phenix set out on his journey, possessed of every engaging quality : I set out with that little share of good sense which fell to my lot. We took different routs. The first adventure which befell me is singular enough, although it is not big with perillous or shining events, such as befall heroes ; I had ran through a great many provinces, without meeting with any thing which gave me the least hopes of raising
me

me to any considerable degree of fortune. I did not neglect to inform myself thoroughly of any thing I met with worth my attention ; I studied the natural history of every thing which nature presented to my view ; I remarked whatever was singular in each country, but this did not satisfy my curiosity. Arriving at length at the kingdom of Circassia, which is the country of beauties, I was astonished to find, that having almost traversed from one extremity of it to the other, I had met with nothing which excited my admiration. I attributed the cause of it to the change of government, which had happened in this kingdom ; and I thought that the troubles had occasioned the dispersing those beauties, which I expected to meet at every corner of a field, according to the account which had been told me of it. I travelled one day along a river which bordered a vast plain ; beyond this river was erected a building which appeared to me very superb : I was seized with a curiosity to view it ; I went towards it, and as soon as I came near it, I saw a castle, which from its outward appearance seemed to me to be the residence of some monarch. The inside appeared gloomy enough, and its inhabitants sorrowful ; nevertheless I saw more beauties there
than

than in all the rest of Circassia ; but never was any thing more savage than they were. Those who saw me at a distance fled from me, and those who could not avoid me, instead of replying to the civil expressions I addressed them in, as I approached them, they only turned away their heads. There, says I to myself, are figures which want nothing but speech, a very natural representation of very fine women. I crossed, I don't know how many galleries, without meeting in this extensive castle any, but what were equally as tiresome, as they themselves appeared tired, when I heard some loud laughing in an apartment separated from these galleries, I was glad to find that every one was not plunged into that melancholy, with which this place began to infect me. I entered into this apartment, and saw in the room where this laughing still continued, four magpies sitting at a table playing at cards ; they were not at all startled at my coming in, on the contrary, after having paid their compliments to me, they continued to play at a game I could not tell what to call it, I who know all the games in the world : They had a crow of a very good aspect sitting near them, who made knots while he looked on them at play. I protest I was surpris'd enough at
so

so new a spectacle, I could not tell what to make of it but enchantment; they shuffled, cut, and dealt, as if they had done nothing else all their lives. While I was deeply engaged in looking on, one of the magpies, after having been striking his card for a good while, flung them all on the table with violence, and began crying out, Tarare, with all his might. The others echoed it; even the crow, who was not at play, cried Tarare, and after that they burst out a laughing again, but so violent, that I could not stay there. I quitted the apartment of these magpies, inhabitants of this melancholy castle, and three days after I left the kingdom. About this time the beauty of Luizanta began to be talked of every where; I had heard such marvellous accounts of it, that I could not believe them; and they telling me there was some danger in looking upon her, made me resolve to go and see if what they said was true. I had had for a long while a curiosity to see the happy kingdom of Cachemira, by what had been told me of it. I had all on a sudden an inclination to quit my name. I don't know whether on account of the custom introduced among adventurers, who always disguised themselves, or that the name of Poinçon did not

seem noble enough for a man who wanted to speak with the first beauty in the world ; but however I did change my name, and the adventure of the magpies still dwelling upon my mind, I took Tarare for my name. Tarare, says the Thorn-Flower, exactly so, continued he, and what is particular in this name is, that it seems that no body can hear it, without desiring to repeat it, as you did, as soon as you heard of it.

At the entry of the kingdom of Cachemira, by the road I took, the learned Serena hath fixed her enchanted habitation. The desire I had of being acquainted with a person whose supernatural knowledge, acquired by long study, had rendered her the most illustrious of mortals, engaged me as much to the journey, as what I had heard of Luizanta ; but the difficulty of the attempt almost made me despair of succeeding in it ; of vast numbers of people who had had the same design as myself, but a very few had succeeded. They knew very near where about her dwelling was, but they sought it in vain. It was impossible to find it, if fortune, or rather a favourable hint from the sorcerers, did not guide you there. I was happy enough to be admitted to her presence ; and apparently I was not worthy of it, but by the extreme
desire

desire I had to pay my homage to this superior genius.

I will not trouble you with a particular description of a dwelling, whose beauties can scarcely be imagined. All that I shall tell you, is, that this part of Cachemira, is, in respect to the rest of it, what the delicious kingdom of Cachemira is in respect to the other parts of the earth. I assure you I have set more value on the little time I was permitted to stay with her, than on that gift of genius, which my father left me to my share; I believe she thought I perceived that my admiration and respects had attracted her patronage; she made me hope so, when I quitted her, and I quitted her with a resolution to render myself as worthy of it as possible. I took care not to be seen, when I arrived where the court was. I presently knew the genius of the Caliph. I was informed of the character of his prime minister: As he had not the capacity those generally have or ought to have, who have the management of affairs next under their master; so he had not their presumption and still less, their imperious behaviour; he was the most affable minister that ever was. His wife had more understanding, and was still more engaging in her manners. I put myself into
her

her service in quality of gentleman-usher, and I soon perceived that I did not displease the minister's lady : What kind of beauty was she, says the Thorn-flower, interrupting him ? Such a one as pleases every body, answered he, going on with his discourse, as the Seneschal her husband was a very stupid man, I had no difficulty in passing for a very ingenious person with her ; which made her apply to me, to find out a remedy for the evils, which the eyes of the princess caused every day. Tarare then told in what manner, he compassed his design of painting her. Have you often beheld her ? says the Thorn-flower, yes, says he, as often as I wanted, and without any danger, as I am going to tell you. Have you found her so wonderfully handsome, as you was told she was ? a thousand times handsomer, answered he. I cannot help asking you, says she, if you did not directly become passionately in love with her, now, tell me the truth !

Tarare did not conceal any thing which had had passed between and the princess, not even the assurance, she had given him, of marrying him if he succeeded in his undertaking. The Thorn-flower no sooner heard this, but thrusting him back, with her hands, which at that time embraced him

him, she sat up strait instead of leaning against him as before, Tarare believed he could very well guess what she wanted to say ; but going on with his discourse, without taking any notice. I dont know, says he, what happy influence first disposed the princess in my favour ; for I am very well satisfied it could not be the agreeableness of my person, and still less did the sentiments of my heart merit it, for I have been too fully convinced since, that the love which I thought I had for her, was nothing more than admiration. Every moment that I am away from her, insensibly estranges the idea of her from my remembrance ; and from the first moment I saw you, I did not think of her at all. He was silent, and the beautiful Thorn-flower leaned gently against him, as before, and put her hands upon his, which he put about her to hold her up. In this situation they were when the day began to break, and Tarare having taken the luminous hat to relieve the Thorn-flower who had not quitted him during the darkness, they received a light from it as well as from the faint lustre of Aurora just coming forth. She refreshed the flowers, and the precious tears which she shed, watering the grass in the meadows,

her service in quality of gentleman-usher, and I soon perceived that I did not displease the minister's lady : What kind of beauty was she, says the Thorn-flower, interrupting him ? Such a one as pleases every body, answered he, going on with his discourse, as the Seneschal her husband was a very stupid man, I had no difficulty in passing for a very ingenious person with her ; which made her apply to me, to find out a remedy for the evils, which the eyes of the princess caused every day. Tarare then told in what manner, he compassed his design of painting her. Have you often beheld her ? says the Thorn-flower, yes, says he, as often as I wanted, and without any danger, as I am going to tell you. Have you found her so wonderfully handsome, as you was told she was ? a thousand times handsomer, answered he. I cannot help asking you, says she, if you did not directly become passionately in love with her, now, tell me the truth !

Tarare did not conceal any thing which had had passed between and the princess, not even the assurance, she had given him, of marrying him if he succeeded in his undertaking. The Thorn-flower no sooner heard this, but thrusting him back, with her hands, which at that time embraced him

him, she sat up strait instead of leaning against him as before, Tarare believed he could very well guess what she wanted to say ; but going on with his discourse, without taking any notice. I dont know, says he, what happy influence first disposed the princess in my favour ; for I am very well satisfied it could not be the agreeableness of my person, and still less did the sentiments of my heart merit it, for I have been too fully convinced since, that the love which I thought I had for her, was nothing more than admiration. Every moment that I am away from her, insensibly estranges the idea of her from my remembrance ; and from the first moment I saw you, I did not think of her at all. He was silent, and the beautiful Thorn-flower leaned gently against him, as before, and put her hands upon his, which he put about her to hold her up. In this situation they were when the day began to break, and Tarare having taken the luminous hat to relieve the Thorn-flower who had not quitted him during the darkness, they received a light from it as well as from the faint lustre of Aurora just coming forth. She refreshed the flowers, and the precious tears which she shed, watering the grass in the meadows,

dows, also kept the dust from flying in the roads.

But while the beautiful fore-runner of the day, opened the gates for the horses of the sun, the ringing mare began to neigh. The Thorn-flower started at it, and trembling all over, ah ! says he, we are undone ; the witch pursues us. Tarare looked behind him, and saw the terrible Dentua mounted on an unicorn, whose colour was like fire, and who lead two tygers, the the least of which was taller than the ringing mare. Tarare endeavoured to keep the Thorn-flower in heart, by telling her that the mare went so fast, that they should presently loose sight of the witch, and her equipage ; and, thereupon, he wanted to run full speed, but the ringing mare stopt short. In vain did he apply the spurs to her, and try every way to make her go forward ; she was immoveable. The Thorn-flower fainted in his arms. seeing the witch but about fifty steps from them. Tarare protested to her, that while he had a drop of blood in his veins she should not fall into her hands, nor into the claws of he tygers : All that he could say could not bring her to herself. Dentua still drew nearer, and Tarare being at a lost what Saint to commend himself to, thought it the best way

way to try mild methods; and careſſing the mare, what, my good ringer, ſays he to her, will not you preſerve your pretty miſtreſs from this villainous witch who purſues her? But though he had piqued her honour by theſe words, ſhe never ſtirred, and the witch was no more than twenty ſteps from him, when the ringer wagged her left ear three times; he directly put in his finger, and having found a little ſtone, he threw it over his left ſhoulder: In an inſtant a wall aroſe up between the witch and him. This wall was but ſixty feet high, but it was ſo long, that one could neither ſee the beginning or end of it.

The Thorn-flower revived. Tarare returned thanks to fortune, and the ringer went as ſwift as lightning. They had already loſt ſight of the new wall, and Tarare thinking the Thorn-flower in ſafety, was going to ſay ſomething that was tender, and perhaps diverting, when the ringer ſtopped quite ſhort in the middle of her courſe. Tarare turned his head, and ſaw the terrible Dentua, who purſued them afreſh: What! cries he, is there no wall, proof againſt her unicorn tygers, her long tooth, and her horrible paw. During theſe reflexions, all the fears of the Thorn-flower returned. The mare more reſtive now,

than the first time, stood as if her feet had been nailed to the ground: Tarare plucking up his spirits, began to speak to the ringer, in a more feeling manner than before. Alas! said he, virtuous ringer, I see very well that the witch hath put some spell upon you, and that when she sees you, you cannot stir. If it was not for that, with your disposition of mind, I would lay a wager, that you would rather die, than not save your young mistress, the pretty Thorn-flower; but as I perceive by your sorrow, that you can give us no assistance, I ask one favour of you; which is, to save the charming Thorn-flower. As soon as I shall set my foot on the ground, I shall go and meet the forcerefs and her tygers, perhaps fortune will second my bold attempt. Fly as fast as you can with my dear Thorn-flower, while Dentua fixes her eyes upon me; adieu, my good ringer, save the Thorn-flower, do not forsake her I conjure you, and if you never see me again, call to mind sometimes a man who loved you with the utmost tenderness. As soon as he had done speaking, he alighted, but the Thorn-flower clasped him in her arms to keep him from going.

As for the poor ringer she was so affected, that she set a crying like a child:

She

She groaned in such a manner, as if she would have cleaved the rocks with it, and the tears fell from her eyes in drops larger than the top of one's finger down to the very ground; while she was thus bemoaning to no purpose, the sorceress approached; she then wagged her right ear six times.

Tarare found nothing there but a drop of water, which hung at the end of his finger, he flung it over his right shoulder: This drop of water no sooner fell upon the ground, but there appeared a river, which immediately became so large, that one would have taken it for an arm of the sea: Its waters were more rapid than a torrent, and it extended itself on the side, on which Dentua pursued them, and with so much impetuosity, that she, her unicorn, and her tygers, all expected to be drowned. It diverted the Thorn-flower and Tarare to see that as far as the water pursued her, so she hurried on her unicorn. As soon as they lost sight of her, the ringer gave a leap for joy, which had liked to have flung off the Thorn-flower; this occasioned Tarare to set her on more upright, that she might better keep her seat; for although this leap of the mare came all on a sudden, as he was a good horseman, he was not much discomposed by it.

This was the second time they were delivered from the horrors of the cursed Dentua. Tarare was in hopes this would be the last alarm she would give them. The good ringer seemed to take part in the tranquility which succeeded all the uneasinesses they had undergone, and she ran with incredible swiftness. Tarare seeing that she kept on going, thought it time to stop her, to inform her of his intention, not knowing whether the road she took, would bring them to the place they wanted to go to; wherefore laying the bridle on her neck, ringer, says he to her, I know very well, we cannot go out of our way with you : We want to go to the country of Cachemira; it is entirely encompassed with mountains and precipices on one side, and on that very side next the dwelling of Serena; let us go on this side. And why to the country of Cachemira, says the Thornflower to him ? Is not that Luizanta's ? It is her father's kingdom, says he, and I have promised to carry the spoils of the sorcerers to him, whatever they be, as Serena demands them. How is that, says she to him, a little disturbed ? Did not you tell me, that, although you undertook this enterprise at the instances of Luizanta, the pleasure of delivering me was the end you aimed

aimed at? What a fool was I, says she, to flatter myself, that you'd forget the most beautiful person in the world to think on such a creature as the Thorn-flower? Why did not you tell me, that you had no thoughts about me? Ah Tarare, says she, letting some tears fall, I see your only care is to appear before those beautiful eyes, which still charm you, loaded with the spoils you have promised her, leading the Thorn-flower to her in triumph. If you had not deceived me, you would not go to seek her, after having found what you seemed to be so very much afraid of losing; what should hinder your carrying me into your own country? Why do you make me sensible that there are greater evils than those you have delivered me from? If you had never flattered me, my heart always at rest, would not have painted it out to me, as the greatest evils, the being made a sacrifice to Luizanta; she will love you but too well without this new testimony of your tenderness.

Tarare was in the utmost concern at her affliction, but still he was charmed at these alarms, and seeing that she did not leave off crying: No my charming Thorn-flower, says he to her with transport, I have not deceived you in the least, in saying, that

it was only for you I exposed myself, and that you should sooner see me die, before your eyes, than think of sacrificing you to Luizanta; the first sight of you drove her from my heart; every moment establishes you there, more and more. Your words, which describe so well the delicacy and sincerity of your sentiments, have penetrated to the very bottom of my soul; I would die to save you, judge you then, whether it is for another that I desire to live; set your mind then at ease about my design, let me keep my word, since I should be unworthy of you, if I failed in that respect. You must know, that we cannot be any where in safety but in the territories of Cachemira; and depend upon it, if one must, I shall sacrifice Luizanta to the aimable Thorn-flower, at the hazard of a thousand lives, if I had them.

We are easily persuaded by those we love, and readily believe what we wish for. Tarare had opened his heart, with an eagerness too sincere, and too natural to leave any disquiet in the Thorn-flower about his intentions, and as soon as he saw her satisfied, he took hold of the ringer's bridle, who turned all at once to the right, and set up a gallop as fast as any thing on earth could do. They arrived in less than
half

half an hour at the foot of a mountain, which appeared inaccessible, if any thing could be so to the agility of the ringer.

Tarare knew that it was one of the mountains, which encompass the limits of the very happy Cachemira. The ringer climbed up, as if she had gone on even ground, and did not fatigue those she carried, no more, than if she had been in a plain: As soon as they approached the summit, the air seemed embalmed with all the perfumes of Arabia; and on which ever side they cast their eyes, a continual parterre presented itself to their sight, with all the charms of a delicious variety. The Thorn-flower was very glad to stop there a moment; and while she was lost in the contemplation of so many wonders, the Dæmon of jealousy, who intrudes himself every where, began to disturb her attention. What! says she, is Luizanta, heiress of all I see? Luizanta, more precious still than all these treasures, and more brilliant than all the beauties which nature displays here, must bring them with herself to whomsoever she shall make choice of for a spouse, and she may have by that somebody who would refuse his hand to the Thorn-flower. Ah Tarare! if it is true that your constancy, or rather your blind-

ness toward me, may stand the trial of what I fear; convince me of it, if it is possible, before we descend into these enchanted places, or let me seek from the side of these precipices, from whence we came, a destiny more supportable than that of seeing you with Luizanta.

Another might, perhaps, have been impatient at a disquiet, which she ought not so soon to have entertained after what he had said to her; but the Thorn-flower was still more charming through her tenderness and delicacy, and Tarare loved her passionately. He was so far from refusing her, that these motions of disquiet would have caused joy in his heart, if they had not disturbed a little too much the repose of her he loved; and to endeavour to remedy it, beautiful Thorn-flower, says he, I know but of two means to give you assurance of the sincerity, you wish for; the one is to receive my hand here in the presence of heaven and earth, and from this moment to unite my heart to yours for ever; I call to witness, the invisible powers who hear us, that I should think myself more happy to spend my life with you in the midst of these frightful places, through which we ascended, than to reign
with

with Luizanta in these fortunate climates, whither we are going to descend. I offer then my heart and my faith, without going further, and will conduct you to the little territory, where perhaps my brother is returned; but I have already told you, that throughout the whole kingdom of Cachemira, we shall be exposed to the fury and pursuit of the cruel Dentua, and when we have got clear of her, we shall not be able to save ourselves from the just resentment of Serena, to whom I promised to bring back her daughter with the hat and mare.

The Thorn-flower testified her surprise by a little start; indeed pretty Thorn-flower, you are the daughter of the magician Serena, whose virtue as well as her art, renders her more respectable than if she held the most elevated rank; it was by her advice we set out on our journey, to the end that laying at her feet the treasures she asked, and which I have happily taken away from the sorcerers; I might claim a right to demand of her the most precious of all, as a recompence for what I have done in obedience to her commands. The Thorn-flower, a little confused at the jealousy she had expressed, did not hesitate upon this last proposition. They then descended into the fertile and smiling plains,

which appeared with new charms the nearer they approached them. For my part, I protest, I am not sorry for it ; for I believed they would never have quitted the top of this mountain, where their sentiments, as well as their perplexities, have a little tired me, as they will your serene majesty.

Our lovers got to the bottom of the mountain, while the sun shone out with its full lustre. Although the ringer went so easy, that it was not at all fatiguing, the alarms and fears which the Thorn-flower had undergone during a night in which she had not closed her eyes, had very much sunk her spirits ; Tarare, whose attention was wholly fixed on her, perceived it, and alighted on the side of a rivulet, which two rows of orange-trees shaded on every side. The Thorn-flower no sooner sat down, than she fell asleep, although she did all she could to prevent it. Tarare took the bridle from the ringer, to let her take some refreshment ; but as he was not willing she should go too far, and yet have liberty to feed where she liked, he unmuffled all her bells, that he might hear her wherever she went. As soon as she found her bells were not muffled, instead of amusing herself with feeding, she made
such

such graceful and regular movements, that nothing equalled the harmony, which was heard around her. Tarare having listned to it some time, sat himself down to look upon his charming Thorn-flower. She had the most perfect shape ever seen : Her visage, in this sweet sleep, which closed her eye-lids, sparkled with all the charms which bloom, youth, and the graces could diffuse. The fond Tarare kept his eyes continually looking upon her, and suffered himself to be drawn away to the most tender imaginations in the world, examining so many beauties separately ; but he preserved an inviolable respect, whatever desire this gazing at her could prompt him to lay it aside.

The lovers in these times did not know what it was to attack by surprise, or to enjoy by force, those who trusted to their probity. He contented himself with feeding his eyes with the beauties he saw, and to let his imagination rove on those he did not see. The ringer nevertheless who moved from them insensibly, made her bells sound in so ravishing a manner, that he chose some new airs which they composed, and made tender and amorous couplets in praise of the Thorn-flower, who was asleep. If it was left to me, said he in his verses, to
 K 6 form.

form a beauty according to my own fancy, I could not imagine any thing more amiable, nor more engaging, than that which I see : And in order to touch my heart, she need only copy the Thorn-flower. With such imaginations, Seigneur Tarare had had no thoughts about sleeping. He praised heaven for the sweet repose, by which he had enjoyed his goddess ; but he thought that after having slept well, she would want something to eat. On every side that he turned his eyes in this beautiful country, they saw wherewith to furnish the finest desert in the world, every tree and bush offered them something ; but he did not choose to begin with fruit, as they were very hungry. He left his tablets and verses which he was going to write near the Thorn-flower, and went to find the ringer, whose music he continually heard, although he did not see her. He was at a loss what to do, but it struck into his head, that a creature, who had afforded them so many assistances, could not want a resource to supply all their wants. He found her in the manner they paint Orpheus, encompassed with all kinds of beasts and birds, which the sweetness of her harmony had brought together about her ; it cost a woodcock, two red partridges, and a pheasant, their
lives,

lives, who were a little too attentive ; he set about getting them ready for the Thorn-flower's supper, for although Poinçon was a prince, Tarare was a cook when he pleased, and the best of every thing in its kind. We must not ask if he did his best on the occasion. Upon his return, the Thorn-flower awaked, and upon her awaking, she found herself provided for. She did not seem insensible to his cares ; and his haste in this adventure was not looked upon by her with indifference. He told her how he was indebted to chance for this small repast. She pitied the poor birds whom the love of music had attracted ; but she kept on eating while she was lamenting them. She wanted to know how he employed his time while she was asleep. His pocket-book lay by her, and she longed to open it. She laid hold of it, and although she blushed, she read two or three times over the writing there : She told him, she dared not praise so much as they deserved, those verses which praised her more than she deserved ; he protested to her that he did not praise her enough : And called her charms to witness that he thought them a thousand times greater than it was possible for him to express either in prose or verse. Tarare, said the modest Thorn-flower, if

I was disposed to vex myself by just reflexions, I should tell you that your sincerity is a little suspected by me ; I know myself, and I know that I have so much agreeable in me as not to be absolutely ugly ; but since so favourable a prepossession in my regard blinds you, I shall not open your eyes to a thousand imperfections belonging to me, and which ought not to belong to me, to be deserving of what you say of me, and which you assure me you really think. There were many tender things said on each side in this contest, which the reader will very readily excuse my not inserting, as he generally skips over them to arrive the sooner at the end of the tale.

Night presently came on after their repast. The Thorn-flower, who had slept ever since dinner, was willing to set out on their journey. The innocence of her sentiments, the respect of him who accompanied her, and custom, seemed to allow her to set her mind at ease. Nevertheless, as she was nice as to the point of decorum, she thought it would be better to travel by one another, than to rest together all night. But she was troubled for Tarare, who had really need of rest : He perceived her concern, and having assured her that he had more spirit than to sleep in her company, they

they set out in hopes of arriving at the illustrious Serena's by break of day. The harmony of the ringer surprised and charmed every thing they met in their way. In the woods they passed through, the birds deceived by the lustre of the hat, saluted, as they thought, the rising day, while they answered the agreeable sound of the golden bells. The cocks in the villages crowed as at the dawn of day, and awaked the poor labourers, who had just got to rest, to return speedily to their labour. But the Thorn-flower no sooner took the hat from off her head, but night returned, and the good folks went to sleep again.

The real day at length broke out, and Tarare promised his pretty mistress that she should presently salute her illustrious mother : But he could not keep his promise. As he had been already twice with the magician, he thought he could easily get to her again. But in vain did he persist two whole days in seeking her : He very well knew he had passed a hundred times hard by her ; he could not comprehend why Serena should become more inaccessible now than before, since he brought back to her a daughter whom she most tenderly loved, and that he was charged with the rest of the treasures she had required ; he was afraid
the

the Thorn-flower would suspect his having deceived her in this article ; but the last proofs he had given her of the sincerity of his affection had entirely cured her of all her jealousy, she had no more uneasiness than what proceeded from not being in the favour of a mother she had never seen, and who seemed to refuse to see her. They were not disheartned, and the third day they recommenced their search every where about, without bethinking themselves, as Tarare had done before, to tell the ringer to carry them to the magician, for she was indued with the power of arriving wherever they told her to go, without any enchantment being able to prevent her. Tarare however did not think of that, for if it came into his head when he told her to carry him to Cachemira, it did not whilst he sought to no purpose the dwelling of Serena.

It was during this time that a certain politician of the country, who was employed to hold correspondencies at court, discovered the arrival of Tarare, upon which the Caliph having dispatched courier upon courier, with orders for him immediately to repair thither ; in spite of some slight alarm taken by the Thorn-flower at it, and the secret misgivings which threatened

ned her heart with some misfortune, she did what she could to suppress them before Tarare ; and it was not a small effort to appear tranquil in approaching a city where Luizanta waited that Tarare might receive from her a remedy to so many misfortunes, and perhaps to offer him a recompence. They arrived at length, and were received as in triumph : Every place resounded with acclamations, and these acclamations raised the glory of Tarare up to the skies. They did not doubt but a man, who came to finish so gloriously an enterprise begun for the public good, and the service of the princess, would bring a remedy to all their misfortunes, and then was the time for it. The good Caliph since his departure having diverted himself too long with his daughter, had let fall his spectacles, and her beautiful eyes had deprived him of his sight. The Seneschal, the most loyal of all his ministers, died of grief on that account ; his wife was comforted by her being so much in favour with the princess ; which was so great, that she killed no body but by her advice. There was a great change at court, but this was not all, there unluckily arrived a certain Moorish man a little while since, who governed the Seneschal's widow by the insinuating charms of his

his wit, as she governed the princess by the charms of a parrot, who secured those who held him from the danger of her eyes.

The council assembled on the arrival of Tarare ; and the Caliph, who never saw clearly into his affairs, was less in a situation to manage them than ever. He would embrace him, although he could not see him. Some proposed to erect statues to him, others gave their vote for the great and little triumph. The Caliph consented to every thing to honour so much merit ; but Tarare modestly declining it, ah ! Sire, cries he, what cares employ you as well as your wise council ? In a conjuncture like this, what I have done for you and your state don't require such recompences ; is it time to speak of it before this service hath produced its effect ? I must tell you there is some little imprudence in your couriers hurrying my arrival here : I was going to restore into the hands of Serena what I had not carried away but for her. I should have brought the so much desired remedy, instead of that I must return thither, and they must wait my return. The Caliph asked his pardon very humbly, and attributed the fault to his council. His council flung it again upon the orders of the princess who governed since the blindness of
of

of her father, and that the Seneschal's widow governed absolutely. It was resolved that Tarare should depart after the morrow with the treasurers of the sorcerers. The Caliph insisted upon the Thorn-flower being lodged that night with the Seneschal's widow, as in the most honourable place next after his palace. For, says he to Tarare, you see there is no good done near Luizanta. Tarare conducted her thither, and the wife of the Moorish man was so busied in serving her, and did it with so much address, that she was charmed with it. Tarare would not so much as go to the palace for fear of renewing her alarms. He must however quit the Thorn-flower, and get himself ready for his departure the day following. His impatience made him dispatch that business quickly.

On his return he found the Thorn-flower employed in gazing on the portrait of Luizanta, which he was to carry with him the next day. He perceived that her admiration of this marvelous beauty was attended with some uneasiness: He told her what he knew would not fail to put her in spirits: And she reckoned very much on the assurance he gave her, that he would go away without seeing the original of this portrait. The Moorish woman had presently discovered

vered the sentiments they entertained for each other. She did not conceal her thoughts on it from the Seneschal's widow whom she went to find, and who had made her the confident of her good will to Tarare. But before she could speak, the Seneschal's widow hastened to tell her, that her heart was a little divided on one side by tenderness, and on the other by glory. That although she had experienced more than once that love renders all conditions equal ; nevertheless in a post in which her rank drew the eyes of all the world upon her, she was at a loss to determine ; but after having well considered it, she found that a Seneschal's widow might, without disgrace, marry a 'squire, especially when he returned covered with glory. It was after this harangue, that her confident told her, that she would find herself a little mistaken as to the honour she intended to do him ; and she then told her all the particulars of her suspicions, on account of this young person. Immediately jealousy seized the widow ; she was of all widows the most violent in her passions, and of all the Moors her confident was the most wicked. It was in her hands they had put the poor Thornflower.

Tarare

Tarare, who came the next day, in order to carry her away with him, was astonished at the change he saw in her: She felt dreadful ills, which she strove in vain to conceal; she knew by the transports of his grief, that he perceived all the violence that had been used to her; farewell his journey, farewell the good of the state: He thought of nothing but assisting the Thorn-flower; and seeing by the increase of his misfortunes that all his care was to no purpose, he thought of nothing but dying with her. The Seneschal's widow in the despair of her lover, and the torments of her rival, glutted her vengeance. The council of the Caliph was terribly alarmed because Tarare was not willing to depart. The Moor at last who had done the mischief, advised to put an end to it, that Tarare might go. The griefs of the Thorn-flower left her all at once, as they had come upon her, but she remained so weak and low spirited, that she conjured Tarare to yield to the importunities of the court; and depart without her. He obeyed with regret, but he heartily recommended to her not to see Luizanta before his return; he assured her it would be very soon, and he went after some very tender farewells on both sides. In vain did the Thorn-flower en-

endeavour to recover her health after his departure. She fell, in spite of her endeavours; into a weakness which impaired the sight of her eye. She had no ways doubted, but that as her griefs had quitted her, her good plight of body would have come again; but in spite of that bloom which she ardently wished to return, before her lover, an almost insensible weakness altered her every day. At length the finest colours in the world were converted into a sad paleness, which was succeeded by a yellow mixed with green, that she hardly knew her own self, an universal leanness having worn away the finest neck in the world; the most complete shape that ever was, was changed into a skeleton. While the poor Thornflower saw herself in this deplorable condition, the Seneschal's widow triumphed upon it. Her confident had persuaded her, that the pleasure of seeing her despised for her figure, would be sweeter, than to see her death lamented on the return of her lover; and it was because they reckoned it a greater punishment for her, that they spared her life. However, they saw no more of the princess at the palace, for they could not look upon her without being fortified with her parrot, but she was become so senseless, that she would not let any body hold it; they

they speak much of the marvelous beauty of this bird, little of his wit, for he talked but seldom, and when he did, he answered quite contrary, but he had grace in his action, and politeness in his manners.

The impatience of Tarare shortned his journey, he returned, when they did not think him halfway, and brought with him a remedy to the evils, caused by the finest eyes in the world. The people followed him in crouds to the very apartment of Luizanta, but no body went in with him. He had with him a vial as big as a large glass; it was made of one single diamond, and contained a liquor so brilliant, that the dazzling eyes of the princess, were themselves so dazzled by it, that she shut them. Tarare took that opportunity of bathing her temples and eyelids. As soon as that was done, she unclosed them, and Tarare having caused all the gates to be opened, the people were witness of the miracle, and celebrated it with a thousand acclamations. They saw her eyes as brilliant as ever; but they saw them with so little danger, that an infant of a year old might have looked on her face a whole day, without feeling any thing but pleasure. Tarare kissed the bottom of her robe, to make her the first compliment, and retired under pretence

tence of carrying the first news to the Caliph; but he followed the motions of his heart which drew him toward his charming Thorn-flower. The news of his return and of the miracle, which he had produced, spreading itself every where, he was obliged to yield to the necessity of seeing the Caliph before his mistress.

The good prince was ready to run mad for joy, when he knew that the eyes of his daughter were no more hurtful, though as fine as ever; but when Tarare, after having bathed his eyes, had restored his sight, he did not appear so glad at seeing again the light of the day, as full of gratitude toward him, wanted to kiss his feet, and after some other transports, which better suited his gratitude, than his majesty, he would directly carry him back to his daughter, that she might make choice of him for her spouse, and have the marriage concluded that day, protesting to his council, that he should never be satisfied, till he saw his palace quite full of young Tarares. Oh! for the little Tarares, says the Sultan, I have nothing to reply to that; I have had all the trouble in the world to resist the other, but I cannot hold out any more; you have overcome, Dinarzarde, I owe to you the life of your sister, and give her to you, and I bestow

bestow upon her all my affection which she merits by her charms and learning, but of which she is still more deserving by the liveliness of her tales, by which she hath diverted me for so long a time: Go, Dinarzade, go, seek for the Vissir your father, that he may bring me directly my scepter, and the seal of the empire, that I may confirm by the requisite forms, the promise I make you. Dinarzade was not spoke to twice, she returned with the Grand Vissir, who let fall some tears, in sealing this favour to his daughter. This done, he made three profound reverences at the foot of the imperial bed, of which he respectfully lifted up the coverlet: The Sultane's flung herself from the bed upon the ground, and prostrating herself before her lord, she kissed the little toe of his left foot, which he held out to her, in the most tender manner in the world; and rising up, he put the royal scepter three times upon the tip of his nose, according to the custom of the country, as a mark of favour.

These ceremonies being finished, the Vissir and the wise Dinarzade, after having put the empress to bed again, drew the curtain, and imagining their presence would now be useless, opened the door to go away, when the Sulan called them back; I

don't repent, says he, of the favour I did the Sultaneſs, but as I hold that juſtice ought to be inſeparable from clemency in all my actions, to-morrow at day-break I will hang the traitor who reveals my counſels. Dinarzade could not know what paſſed in reſpect to Tarare but from her father, or her lover; ſo my Viziar and the prince of Trebizonde ſhall draw lots, and the guilty, or the unfortunate, ſhall be ſacrificed, according to the law of the ſtate. The Viziar who knew the unnatural inhumanity of his maſter, turned paler than death at this ſentence, and kneeling on both knees, he called heaven, earth, the great prophet, and his Alcoran to witneſs his innocence, but courageous Dinarzade, far from being alarmed at this threatning, you are far more ready, my lord, ſaid ſhe, to take reſolutions of cruelty than to give marks of tenderneſs. I ought to intereſt myſelf more than any other in what you are ſaying, if it is true that the prince of Trebizonde or the Viziar my father are guilty; nevertheleſs I abandon them both to your anger, in caſe I do not convince you, that it is you yourſelf who have revealed this fine ſecret of your council, and that if it is a capital crime to have ſpoke of it, your formidable majeſty deſerves more to be hanged

hanged than the Viziar, or the prince whom you call my lover. The Viziar was ready to swoon away, through fear, at this rash discourse of his daughter, but the equitable Sultan, as if awakening out of a dream, joined their hands directly, took off his night-cap, asked pardon of Mohammed. and having three times rubbed the nose of Dinarzade with his royal scepter, three times the Viziar's, and three times his own, he promised to do much the next day for the handsome Trebizonde; and the ceremonies of this general amnesty being finished, he conjured the prudent Dinarzade never to reveal what had passed between them concerning Tarare; and as he had only one minute and three quarters left, he ordered her to finish the history which she did in the following manner. The council of the Caliph was on the point of repeating the little Tarares, as they had done the great; but they remembered that he had forbid it in an article of his first treaty.

While the Caliph run to his daughter, Tarare could not dispense without curing all those she had wounded, which were a great many, but as the remedy took immediate effect, he soon dispatched them. Every place resounded with acclamations and joyful sounds, and in so universal a joy,

the Thorn-flower was the only unhappy being.

The report of Tarare's arrival having reached the ears of the Seneschal's widow, she hastened to inform the Thorn-flower of it; and this news, which at another time would have filled her with joy, began to put her in despair; she always thought her cruel rival and her confident were touched with her misfortune; she fell upon her knees before them, to conjure them not to let Tarare see her in the condition she was in; they gave her their word upon it, but they told her they could not prevent her receiving a visit from the Caliph, who as soon as he recovered his sight, had desired to satisfy his curiosity in seeing a person whom they had represented as beautiful as Luizanta, and in saying so these wicked monsters aimed in spite of all she had done to set herself off to the best advantage, to make her appear more disfigured. The poor creature was nothing but skin and bones; a blue paleness had supplied the place of the lively carnation of her complexion and lips, her eyes were languid, and her lank cheeks looked still more decayed in the rich head-dress they brought her to put on. They exposed her to view upon a rich canopy; she was hardly upon
it,

it, before they heard her lover coming up. They assured her it was the Caliph, and the cruel wretches retired. The Thorn-flower made an effort to sit up, in order to receive him with more respect ; but when instead of the Caliph she saw Tarare enter, she screamed out, and fell against the back of the canopy ; if this surprised him, he was more so at such an extraordinary figure ; he approached it, and as soon as she had recovered her spirits, he asked her where the Thorn-flower was ; this was a mortal stroke to her heart, her spirits failed her, and instead of answering, she plunged into despair and tears.

Tarare not comprehending any thing from her grief, or figure, went to every room to seek the Thorn-flower ; the Seneschal's widow and the Moor were ready to die with laughing, when they told him he was come from her ; he could not bear a pleasantry so ill timed, but he was still more provoked at the pleasure they seemed to take in jeering him ; he left them abruptly, and going to the palace, he found there another scene.

The beautiful parrot had got away, while Tarare was employed about the eyes of Luizanta ; and he saw her lying on the ground tearing her hair. The Caliph and

all his courtiers mounted ladders, looked under the beds and above the cielings, and into all the places he could creep into. Tarare, who knew nothing of the reason of all this, inquired of every one for some news of the Thorn-flower; and every body asked him about the princess's parrot; he thought them all mad, and that they would make him so too. As soon as the Caliph perceived him, he run to him, and being perswaded that every thing was possible to him, he conjured him to calm the despair of Luizanta by restoring her parrot to her. Tarare surpris'd at the uneasiness of the father, and the infatuation of the daughter, could not comprehend there could be any other vexation but his own, and instead of attending to what the Caliph said, he told him, that being answerable for the Thorn-flower to the magician Serena, he had not obtained a remedy to so many evils, but on this condition, that he must first of all see again the Thorn-flower, and after that he would do his best to find the parrot. Luizanta heard these words of consolation, and believed them as they came from the mouth of a man, who boasted of nothing he could not accomplish; the calm which returned to her mind, restored those charms which her grief had

had discomposed ; she began to call to mind what Tarare had done for her, and what he promised still to do. She considered it in her mind, and thought of her former inclination toward him, her word and gratitude swayed her in her determination, she flung herself upon her knees before the Caliph her father, and asked leave to acquit herself of the obligations she was under to a man, who had hazarded every thing to serve her. When the Caliph heard her, he gave such a leap for joy as astonished all the court ; and instead of answering his daughter, he was ready to smother her with his kisses, swore to her she would have given him less pleasure, by a choice which would have added fifteen such provinces as Cachemira to his territories, and returning toward his new son-in-law to embrace him, and present to him the hand of the most beautiful princess in the world, he missed him ; he sought him to no purpose through all the palace ; he never once thought of what Luizanta, after their having looked for him some time, concluded, that being lost in the croud, he had returned with the Seneschal's widow ; that he had left his dear Thorn-flower, when he went to seek after Serena ; and that he was resolved to find her again, or to know what was become of

her ; he found her, but, alas ! in what a condition !

The reflexions which had suspended her tears after he had quitted her, did not set her at ease. He had enquired of her herself, where the Thorn-Flower was ; what a frightful change did he find in the unfortunate Thorn-flower ? said she ; but alas ! if he had ever loved me, his heart would have bent toward me ; he hath known me too well, continues she, I have struck him with horror, and I shall never see him more. Her grief redoubling upon her at this very moment, she hoped it would be the last of her life ; and as she had preserved by her the pocket-book in which Tarare had wrote such tender and affectionate things, she was desirous of leaving the portrait of her heart, when they parted for ever ; there never was any thing so affecting. What they said in this melancholy situation, is what generally attends such conditions ; and the poor Thorn-flower, who followed the emotions of a sincere heart, which was ready to break, fainted away at the last farewell she had wrote in the pocket-book. He knew it again, but it was not till after he had read what she had wrote, that he recollected her herself. All his blood froze in his veins at
this

this sight : He examined her from head to foot without being able to find that it was she under this strange figure, he thought her dead, and to see her, one would have thought she had died fifteen days ago.

His affection took place of his astonishment ; compassion and despair seized him, and putting his mouth to the cold and wasted hand of his mistress, he let fall a torrent of tears upon it. This action withheld a life ready to depart ; she faintly opened her eyes, and saw at her feet the man whom of all men in the world she wished to see there, and whom she was afraid to see, as he alone could make her regret life, or wish for death. What they said to one another would have moved a savage ; he protested with all his heart, that he did not love her less than he did when she was in the height of beauty ; that if her figure, in every respect charming, had first struck his mind, her understanding, her mildness, and the whole of her behaviour, had made a more lively and durable impression on his heart, than all those more glittering charms ; in short, such an one as death only could efface. She wept with joy and tenderness, put her hand to his for the first time in her life, because she thought it would be the last ; she assured him, that after so

many sincere marks of so rare a constancy, she would die content, and believed she should die as she told him.

The impertinent Seneschal's widow arrived to interrupt so moving a conversation; all her jealousy awoke, when she saw Tarare at the feet of a creature whom she thought would have frightened him; she returned from court, where she had been informed of the intentions of the princess toward Tarare, and of the transports of the Caliph in publishing the marriage; she did not fail to compliment him upon it in presence of the dying Thorn-flower. This was the way to finish her; nevertheless this sudden emotion of jealousy, which one would have expected to have overwhelmed her, roused all the force she had left, but it was to receive fresh tortures. The princess accompanied by the Caliph her father, and all the court, arrived that very moment; she was prodigiously surprised at the aspect of a figure like her, to whom Tarare was upon his knees; but the astonishment of the Thorn-flower was yet greater, at the sight of a beauty, who seemed to her to surpass all that had been said of her; her resolution, and what strength she had, then forsook her; she kept her eyes for some time fixed upon her lover, and a moment

ment after she closed them for ever. He set up a shriek, which made the assembly give a start, and caused some emotion in the princess. The Caliph perceived it, and to hearten her, it is nothing daughter, says he, but a shriek of grief, you will find this carcass was some old relation, and he must make some offering to her blood; then addressing himself to him, come Tarare, says he, get up, and wipe your eyes, it is a jest to make a baby of yourself for a mummy, when you have the offer of the kingdom of Cachemira with the hand of Luizanta. I don't know what answer another would have made to such an harangue, but Tarare made none at all, the assembly thought him as dead as the Thorn-flower. The Moor then arrived, who seemed to bewail the death of the Thorn-flower, and took part in the grief of Tarare; but seeing the embarrassment of the Caliph, she advised him to have the corps removed, and to burn it forthwith, if he would have Tarare return to his senses. The opinion of this woman had been regarded as an oracle; since she governed the Seneschal's widow, it was never opposed. It was in vain that the cries and all the resistance Tarare could make, opposed this separation. They tore him from her whom he loved even

more than his life ; they erected a pile of wood on which they laid the Thorn-flower extended, whilst they dragged away by force the despairing Tarare.

After some mournful ceremonies, the Caliph desiring to do honour to a person for whom his son-in-law pretended to interest himself, ordered flambeauxs composed of precious gums to be distributed first of all to his daughter and his council, afterwards to the officers of the crown and his courtiers ; then lifting up a moment a hat which he held in his hand, above his head ; my son Tarare, says he, is witness of the honourable manner in which I am going to burn the corps of that person he regrets so much, I assure myself that it will give him great pleasure. At these words he went to set fire to the four corners of the wood-pile, when they heard the air resound with an harmonious sound, and some moments after the formidable Serena appeared upon the ringing mare. Her presence caused in the assembly very different emotions, she suspended the eagerness of the king, she struck his courtiers with respect for a person whose air had something grand in it ; Luizanta cried out with joy, for her parrot was on the finger of the magician, but the Seneschal's widow was so troubled at it, that

that they had seen her change colour, if that on her face had been natural. As to her confident it was in vain, she cast her eyes on every side to save herself, she soon perceived that she was deprived of this hope. The learned Serena alighting, advanced toward the wood pile ; she held in her right hand the wand of truth ; this wand was made of such brilliant gold that it dazzled the sight. She concealed her knowledge of the object of the spectacle, which offered itself to her eyes, and having asked the Caliph, it is, said he, the carcass of a certain Thorn-flower that we are going to burn. And what hath she done to you, says she to him in a harsh tone ; what hath this Thorn-flower done to you, that you should burn her alive ? The assembly shook with astonishment or joy at these words ; the Caliph having asked pardon for having forgot it was her daughter, insisted upon it that she was dead, and as a proof of it, that he was on the point of burning her.

Serena, without vouchsafing him an answer, ordered the Thorn-flower to be took down from the pile, and having caused her to be laid on a bed which was brought from the palace, she approached, and returning toward the Caliph, you may go and see that she is not dead, there are some
among

among you who know it but too well. As soon as she had done speaking, she touched the Thorn-flower in the forehead with the end of her wand, and in an instant they saw her revive, and her eyes open ; but they saw it with the astonishment of a person, who awaking from a long sleep, finds himself in unknown places. The august Serena appeared surprised at the frightful change of her figure ; she asked for Tarare, and they immediately brought him ; for every body obeyed her as soon as she spoke. He no sooner came than the parrot set up a great cry and fluttered his wings ; Tarare remembered him to be the bird he had met as he went to seek for the forceful Dentua ; but in the grief into which he was plunged he did not give great attention : He was ignorant of what had happened, Serena then looking upon him with indignation ! Base man, says she to him, how dare you appear before me ? You who have at the hazard of your own life answered for that of my dear Thorn-flower ; it was then a little matter for your perfidy to consent to the cruel poison, which after a mortal languor, had rendered her frightful ; you cowardly abandon her to her merciless enemies, and to the flames just ready to devour what remained of the
inno-

innocent Thorn-flower; and you abandon her in so barbarous a manner, that you may signalize your perfidy before the eyes of her, for whom you have betrayed her. Tarare was also as little moved by this long train of reproaches, as if they had been addressed to some other; he was concerned about nothing but the death of the Thorn-flower, and his mind was in all appearance gone to make a tour where he thought to find her shade; but the magician who only tried him, that she might make him triumph, addressing herself still to him; Go, says she, go and receive the reward the destinies reserve for you, spite of the blackness of thy infidelity; it is a recompence which your courage and firmness merit, for having put an end to the most difficult and rash enterprise ever undertaken; and you princess, says she to Luizanta, choose, or rather take now, your spouse, Tarare was not indifferent to you, before he dared to undertake so much for your service; every thing speaks for him; I order you, on the part of the destinies, to nominate him your spouse.

Luizanta looked on the beautiful parrot, Tarare, and the Thorn-flower, two or three times one after another; and after a review of some moments, let him choose him-

himself, says she, between the Thorn-flower and Luizanta. Tarare started at these words, and as if he had awaked out of a dream, addressing himself to her ; beautiful Luizanta, says he to her, I am not worthy of an honour, I no more aspire to, and which I have not so much as dreamed of since my first sight of the unfortunate Thorn-flower. She is no more, and my heart reproaches me every moment that I survive this loss ; I did not live but for her, and the only choice which is left me, is to follow her. And if she lived ? says Serena : These three words made him come a little to himself, some glimpse of hope glided into his heart ; he knew the power of Serena, and flinging himself at her feet ; if she lived, cried he to her, oh ! if she did but live ! and that my life could ransom hers, that Tarare could die, and the beautiful Thorn-flower see again the light of the day ! He was so stupid, that he would have remained for ever at the feet of Serena, waiting his mistress being brought to life, without it ever entering into his head that she might not be dead. The tender Thorn-flower, who did not lose the least word of this conversation, was upon her bed almost ready to faint away with gratitude and joy. Serena thought it was
time

time to give some ease to the grief of so tender a lover. She lifted him up in spite of himself; for he persisted in staying upon his knees as a criminal who seeks for pardon, and banishing this feigned severity, with which she had at first armed her looks: Come, says she to him, come see again your Thorn-flower, and if you constancy is proof against the frightful change of her figure, live for her, as she will live for you.

Tarare, in the first transports of his joy, said and did a thousand things, when he saw her; which would have made people, who knew nothing of his love, die with laughing. Then he protested before all the court, and called all the stars to witness that he would have no other wife but the Thorn-flower. She opposed this resolution with sentiments of generosity to make him quit it. She protested she had so much tenderness and gratitude toward him, that she would not consent to it; that she could not in conscience, think of making him loose the most beautiful princess in the world for her sake, even if those small charms, she had lost, were returned, but in the frightful ugly form as she now was, she would sooner die than consent to it.

Luizanta,

Luizanta, and the Caliph her father, played their part well enough, during this generous contest; he perceived it, and addressing himself to Serena: This would be the finest entertainment in the world, if my daughter was not interested in it; you may say as much as you please about her beauty and greatness, but is she to be without a husband? Is she to divert herself, all her life, with this bird you are going to restore her? It is truly a fine thing for a young princess to have nothing but a parrot to amuse her.

The good prince was going to say a great deal more, when the illustrious Serena commanding silence throughout the whole assembly, demanded the particular attention of the Caliph, his council and court. There appeared something so grand in the air with which she spoke, that every body kept a respectful silence; but the Moorish woman trembled from head to foot. Serena took the parrot, which the princess held, and put it on the ground at some distance from her; then she touched the top of his head with the end of her rod, and drawing a pretty large circle, about her, there presently arose a thick vapour which hindered them from seeing: She made such another round the bed, and touched the Thorn-flower
in

in the forehead, they saw themselves enveloped on a sudden, as it were in a cloud. Whilst they were attentive to this spectacle, the ringing mare pranced round the spectators, and the agitation of her bells, made a delightful harmony.

Oh! how useful are enchantments to unfold an intrigue and the end of a tale! Accordingly as the mare galloped, the clouds which enveloped the Thorn-flower and the parrot came on. The magician, who held this shining rod struck the earth three times with it; the mare stopt, the clouds dispersed, and in the place where they had set down the parrot, they saw the handsomest man in the world.

Tarare presently recollected him to be prince Phenix, his brother, he cried out, with astonishment; but the moment that the other came to fling himself into his arms, looking toward the place, where he had seen the Thorn-flower, she presented herself before his eyes a thousand times more blooming, and more beautiful than she appeared, the first time, on the bank of the rivulet, or when he gazed upon her with so much pleasure, while she was asleep. The people testified their astonishment by redoubled and confused cries, the courtiers by exaggerations, and the Caliph by tears of

of joy. Luizanta considered with attention a metamorphosis, which was not displeasing to her; and Phenix drew their eyes upon him. But the amorous Tarare, in the transports of an immoderate joy, was going to give a thousand marks of it, at the feet of the Thorn-flower, if Serena had not stopped him, the moment he flung himself there, and taking him by the hand, she placed him near his brother: They then embraced each other in the most tender manner in the world; but they were obliged to break off these marks of friendship to regard Luizanta, whom the magician placed opposite them: Cast your attention upon these brothers, says she to her, consult yourself, as to the services of the one, and the handsomeness of the other; but above all consult your heart, upon a decision, which your destiny renders irrevocable: Which ever of these princes you take for a spouse, you will not make a choice unworthy of you, nor can him you choose refuse to be yours. Tarare whom the presence of Phenix kept a little in heart, trembled for fear she should name him. But as there was no comparison, between Phenix and him as to person, Luizanta, was not long considering, and gave her hand to the handsomest.

Serena

Serena joined those of the Thorn-flower and Tarare, it was all the ceremony of the marriages of those times, and princes have never been so happy in their marriage since. The Caliph who was not less pleased, ordered all the cannon to be drawn out, and that they should make bonfires in every corner of the streets, fire-works on the river, and public places, that they should make presents among the people, and that wine should run from all the fountains instead of water; as to the magnificent rejoicings at court, he would take care of them himself; he was the best prince in the world to order a festival, but before he went to his palace for these important cares, Serena told him, that the scene he was going to begin, was not yet complete without the reward which virtue deserved, that she perceived very well that there something for the rod of truth to do. They had liked to have forgot the Seneschal's widow, and her confident, so much public joy filled all their hearts but the equitable Serena who forgot nothing, touched them in the forehead with her infallible rod; all the metamorphoses the Seneschal's widow suffered was the dropping off, four inches of paint, from each cheek, as much from the forehead, and twice as much from her breast; there was
nothing

nothing but an old wrinkle which made them ready to die with laughing, in the prim dress it was left in. But the entire figure of the Moorish woman, having disappeared, they saw that of the horrible Dentua, who was concealed under this disguise, animated by love and vengeance; the Thorn-flower began to find her fears return, but Serena soon putting an end to her alarms; Sire, says she, addressing herself to the Caliph, the lot of these miserable wretches is in your hands, it is you who are to pronounce sentence upon them. Very well, says he, since that is the case, I shall not let them languish long; let my grand provost be sent for to light the pile, and put the sorcerers on it, and send the Seneschal's widow to the mad-house. This illustrious and charming company went to the palace, while they put these orders in execution.

The Caliph gave immediately all the necessary orders for the celebration of a festival, in a more magnificent manner than he had ever made one, though he had done wonders in that way, and while every thing was in motion to execute his will, desirous himself of doing the honours of his court to the respectable Serena, he shewed her the beauties of the grand Salon, finished

a little after the birth of Luizanta ; he could not without doubt employ more worthily the attention of the learned magician, for she had hardly ever seen any thing so marvellous or brilliant, in that inaccessible dwelling she herself had made. The Caliph seeing she was struck with admiration, do not think, says he to her, that this is wholly my contrivance. You must know that during the pregnancy of the deceased queen, I had a dream, in which I thought she was delivered of a wicked little dragon, who endeavoured to eat the whites of my eyes as soon as he came into the world ; I consulted the learned upon a dream, which gave me a great deal of uneasiness, some said I should have a son who should dispossess me after having pulled out my eyes ; others assured me, that he should only obscure my glory, either as a warrior, or by a vivacity of genius, which would eclipse mine ; I only troubled myself about the first explanation ; at last he who boasted himself to be the best interpreter, assured me that this son threatened the tranquillity of my life or my territories, unless I could erect this building before his birth ; he gave me the design of it, as you see it, and he undertook it ; but whatever haste he could make, my spouse was brought to
bed

bed of Luizanta, before he could finish it; all my alarms were at an end, when instead of a cursed dragon of a son, whom their predictions foretold, I saw the prettiest girl that ever came into the world, the truth is she was but too pretty, as we have experienced since, for if you and Tarare had not given your assistance at this very time I am now a speaking to you, there would not have been above three hundred seen in my court. But you, who know every thing, continues he, how would you interpret this now I have a daughter; to what end this Salon with all its ornaments? And after all, what does my dream say, for it must have some relation to Luizanta, since it was about eyes.

Do you want to know, says Serena, this is the explanation of it; your dream was a mere dream, your interpreters impostors, or ignorant people, and he who advised you to build this Salon, an architect who wanted to gain by the advice he gave you; but let us go and rejoin our lovers, you will there learn something more particular of what fatal things the eyes of Luizanta have done at one time. The two brothers were not tired during all this, they were passionately in love, and with pleasure hearkened to the two most charming persons in the world; it is true they were different

ferent beauties, Luizanta's surpris'd more, but the Thorn-flower's was more affecting; the one dazzled, and the other insinuated itself to the very bottom of the heart in proportion, as one examined a thousand charms, which have no name at all, and which are better understood than expressed. The handsome Phenix after having renewed his caresses to a brother whom he tenderly loved, was just on the point of satisfying his desire to learn what had happened to him since their separation, when the Caliph rejoined them with the illustrious Serena. Tarare desiring them to let it be recited in their presence, Phenix began after this manner.



VOL. I. M THE

(132)
THE
HISTORY
OF
PHENIX.

UPON our separation, prince Poinçon and myself in search of adventures . . . And which is, if you please, prince Poinçon, says the Caliph? Me, says Tarare, and it was without knowing why that I quitted this name, to take that which I now bear, and which I am resolved to go by all my life, since under that name I made myself known to the beautiful Thorn-flower. He then told them what they were not acquainted with concerning his adventures to this separation of which his brother was going to speak; and Phenix taking up the discourse, we had agreed, says he (as he has been telling you) that he who did not succeed in his attempt of settling himself, should return to take possession of our territories, in case the other had made his fortune otherwise; for my part, I renounced them from that moment, and relied upon the advantages I thought myself possessed of,

of, I thought of nothing but showing my figure throughout the world, to make myself admired; but the hearts which at first surrendered to me, having nothing to engage me, neither in respect to charms, nor fortune, I thought I should better find my account in Circassia, a country the most famous for beauties.

A queen governed it since the death of the king her spouse, who had left her four daughters, the eldest of which was to reign when she came of age. It was upon that that I formed the scheme of my settlement, but fortune which reserved me an infinitely more valuable one, disposed of it quite otherwise; for before I arrived there, I was informed of the disaster of the royal family by a surprising revolution. A certain inconsiderable prince making use of some ill-founded pretensions to stir up a restless and changeable people, after having corrupted the fidelity of the grandees of the kingdom, had found means to possess himself of the sovereignty so suddenly, that the queen had scarcely had time to save herself with her daughters. I was passing through this kingdom in haste, not willing to make any stay with so perfidious a people, when I was laid hold of by order of the tyrant, by whom all strangers were suspect-

ed, as it generally happens in a usurpation not well settled.

When I appeared before him, I did not conceal either my name or quality ; I met with a reception I did not expect from him, I don't know what prepossessed in my favour, a prince who did not possess either generosity or civility ; but at length after having detained me longer than I liked, at a court where I had the same honours paid me as to himself ; he endeavoured to make me stay by his alliance, offering me his only daughter : A princess who appeared to have as much inclination to marriage, as her figure would create dislike to it. Her person was entirely deformed, and her little eyes had declared her consent a long time before her father had proposed it ; but I abhorred the alliance of an usurper ; and (without boasting) it was with haughtiness enough that I sent his little piece of deformity a packing.

I left Circassia, when chance conducted me to an old castle, superb I confess, but which at first I took to be uninhabited, for I was a long time without meeting with any body. Those who resided in this gloomy abode shut themselves up every day, each in his own apartment, and seemed to carefully avoid each other when they
went

went out, which seemed to me a savage custom. I looked out for somebody of whom I might inquire the reason of it, when I entered into a convenient apartment enough ; there was not one soul there, nevertheless I saw a table, cards, counters, and chairs, set round about it. A moment after arrived four magpies, each followed by a fiskin, who bore up his tail ; a crow very seriously accompanied them. The magpies after having saluted one another very civilly, set themselves down to play, and the crow to work. The Thorn-flower and Tarare who had attended to him during his whole recital, gave each other a jog when he mentioned the magpies. Luizanta who had not took her eyes off the handsome Phenix since he had begun his history, was in doubt whether he was in earnest. Serena smiled at an adventure which was not unknown to her ; but the Caliph shook his sides with laughing. O, as to that, said he, my son-in-law, you are but a young traveller ; as to magpies who have their tails borne up and who make their congees, let that pass ; but as to magpies who play at cards, I believe they have scarce ever been seen. Phenix after having protested what he said was true, I was a long time, says he, looking at a play,

which it is likely none had ever played at but these magpies ; as for my part, I might have looked on to this moment without comprehending any thing of it. At length I saw, all on a sudden, a little brisk magpy, who after having spoke a particular word, which I do not remember, jumped upon the table ; I don't know how I came to forget this word, for the other magpies made their throats sore with repeating it so loud : The serious crow pronounced it gravely, and even the little fisks who snuffed the candles, all joined in concert, repeating it : I was so deafened by it, that I quitted them abruptly, not knowing very well whether I should ever see them again, or that all that I did see was a reality. Upon my quitting this kingdom I heard talk of Cachemira. I learned that in the finest place in the universe was the most beautiful princess in the world. I thought of nothing but getting there as fast as I could : They took care to inform me of the dangers of exposing myself before her eyes ; what danger, said I, but that of being inflamed by them, and dying in adoring them (if one cannot find favour in them) for I look upon it as a fable, the mortal poison of those darling looks, of which they give such a marvellous description, and tell so many tragical events of.

of. It is not to Phenix, said I (flattered with a ridiculous vanity) it is not to Phenix that the excessive lustre of that beauty can be fatal : Let's go and seek it through all those chimerical dangers which encompass it ; and if her charms have so dreadful a poison in them, let her at least share the fatality in seeing Phenix. I make this confession here, beautiful Luizanta, only to punish myself, by the shame I take for it.

That particular interest which drew me toward you, made me neglect the precautions which were requisite to guard against all the dangers which they threatened me with, if I took a bad road. I made a jest of all that they told me of that where the sorceress Dentua had fixed the scene of her enchantments ; and as that was the shortest, I rashly set out in it, and presently repented it. I shall not speak of the directions they gave me to make use of according as I advanced in my way ; I went through desert countries and over dreadful rocks ; and after a thousand inconveniences, I found myself inclosed in a wood, where a thousand monsters stood before me to block up the passage. I was willing to brave it against griffins who fluttered above my head, while hydras and leopards encompassed me on every side. I drew my

sword, I believe I wounded some of my enemies; but after a long combat, in which my strength was exhausted, and in which I found they rather chose to take me prisoner, than kill me; I perceived myself carried up without knowing how, and they set me down in the midst of a very fine garden, where the sorceress was gathering some herbs. From these herbs she intended to draw a dreadful enchantment, for there was mixed with them the blood of a man just killed, quite hot. This is what I saw during my metamorphosis, and it was for that the griffins laid me quite alive at her feet. Her form appeared to me horrible, but I found favour in the most merciless heart that ever was: I perceived it, and I soon knew at what price I must ransom myself. She told me, if I would marry her, she would make me master of an inestimable treasure, besides those of her person; but if I would not, I should not be alive when the sun should first begin to enlighten the earth: And to give me time to consider of my choice, she left me without staying for an answer.

I had no great desire to die, nevertheless that seemed to me the honestest part, and less difficult to take than the other. If I refuse her detestable hand, said I, I am then

then to make a glorious end ; and if I accept it, it will be a noble settlement for me, after having come so far after it, I might flatter myself with the vain hope of pleasing the charming Luizanta, she whose looks no mortal can bear ; I, who should have aspired to the glory of being hers, to see myself reduced at last to the choice of being the husband of a hideous sorceress, or to die obscurely in a frightful desert, where no body will even guess what is become of me. These reflexions were disagreeable, turn them which ever way I pleased ; nevertheless the place in which I made them seemed enchanted. I saw there the finest fruit in the world, and above all figs which to me appeared delicious ; it was a fruit which then pleased me best : I chose one of the finest ; I had no sooner gathered it, but I forgot my uneasiness ; and as soon as I had eat it, I fell asleep. Upon my waking I found myself changed into a bird ; the sorceress whose cries had awakened me stood by me ; she was mad with vexation at a metamorphosis, which did not suit her purpose. She suspected the Thorn-flower to be concerned in it, without guessing however in what manner, and she swore she would punish her for it ; I heard all her complaints and all her threat-

nings, but the truth is, this adventute appeared to me so surprising, that I flattered myself, it was a dream, and I waited with impatience, for a favourable awaking to deliver me out of these horrors ; I waited in vain.

The sorceress took me upon her finger, careffed me every way a bird could be careffed, and told me, I must have patience, that in eight or ten days, she should have finished a certain composition which would restore me to my former shape, but that I must take care not to eat salt, if I should happen to see it ; she left me in a fine garden after this discourse, and having gathered a great quantity of herbs, which were unknown to me.

Judge of the confusion and consternation, into which this adventure had thrown me ; I was going to deplore my misfortune, but instead of crying, unfortunate Phenix, I began to talk like a favourite parrot, and instead of all the complaints and exelamation I had on the tip of my tongue, I said all the impertinent things which parrots are taught, and which the most troublesome of them say by rote ; I was so confused at it, that I resolved not to open my mouth. As I was allowed to ramble every where about the garden, I often saw from the top of
some

some trees the sorceress's house, but whenever I attempted to fly toward that side, my wings failed me, and I looked upon it, to be in vain to attempt this journey on foot. I could fly any where about the other places; in one of my walks, I saw, one day, a woman going out of a wretched cottage covered with straw, she had a little bag under her arm, she sat on the bank of a little river, washing some fish, which she had in a basket, and was going to salt them; I bethought myself of the prohibition I lay under; I guessed I was only forbid, for fear its virtue should restore me to my former shape.

I sat myself down upon the ground near this woman; she was charmed with my beauty, and as I appeared to her very tame, when she had ran some time after me, on a sudden I mounted into the air; and having carried away this poor woman's bag, I went and hid it in a bush out of the way; I immediately returned into the sorceress's garden after this exploit, not daring to stay out any longer, to make trial of what I had in my mind, but next day before the sun arose, I was in the country. That was the day I saw my dear brother; my surprise at this accidental meeting was equal to my joy, he looked upon me very attentively,

I hurried to try the effect of the salt I had hid, but he was afraid, that it would do me harm; I wanted to advertise him of the danger he was in, by being so near the forcerefs, and I burft out a laughing instead of speaking, he then admiring my figure and feathers, pronounced by chance, my name, desirous of flattering me, I would have said to him, yes, my dear brother, I am Phenix; but instead of that I could only pronounce Tarare, and I found I must be quiet, although it vexed me to the utmost. Two days after in the midst of the uneasiness in which I was for the fate of Poinçon, I heard in the garden the dreadful roarings of the forcerefs. It was you, my dear brother, for whom I was so much afraid, who caused her concern, you was come to deprive her of her treasures, and disarm her fury, for the force of her enchantments consisted in her mare, and the hat, of which you was in possession; it was then I was suffered to come near her dwelling, I could not get there till the time she returned from pursuing you, I was a witness of her rage and her grief in an old oak, near the stable, in which I had concealed myself. At last cried she, let me have the pleasure to be partly revenged of the treachery of the infamous Thorn-flower. The robber
who

who hath seduced her to betray me after having abused her, hath left her in the place of the ringer, almost smothered under the very hay, where she was abandoned. Let us complete our vengeance upon her, at these words she entered the stable where she had been deceived by the head-dress of the Thorn-flower, which the wretched Dentillon had got on, without having it in his power to acquaint his mother that it was him; Dentua, without looking any further, set fire to the hay, and shut the stable door as she went out, so afraid was she that the miserable victim would escape. She then run home to see the only consolations that were left her in her misfortune, but she could not find them there, for I was in the oak, where I kept myself snug, whilst I heard the roarings of her only son, to whom the flames had restored the use of his voice in burning the hay with which they had had filled his mouth.

Nevertheless the sorceress who had found nothing at home, apprehensive of some new misfortune, returned to the stable, which she found all on fire, she directly opened the door, and saw, through the flame and smoke, her dear hopes who ended his life by the same kind of death, the fates had reserved for the mother.

The

The villainous toad was so broiled, that he wanted for nothing. The scream she sent forth, was so terrible, that it struck me with horror, and the oak I was in, was shook by it, it was so violent, that the long tooth which grew out of her mouth, jumped more than fifty steps from her, and shattered into a thousand pieces; another would not have regretted this loss, but as her fury was increased by it; well said she, since all my charms abandon me, let us have recourse to artifice; as soon as she had done speaking these words, she run to her dwelling, and I crept out of my hole to save myself, during her absence; I flew as fast as I could, when night came on, I found the bush, where I had concealed my bag of salt; I began to hope the sorcerers would not find me; thanks to heaven, said I, well I am delivered from the cruel necessity of choosing either death, or this relishing spouse; but, however, let me be a parrot the rest of my days. I will not tell you all I suffered, before I came to this happy climate, which puts an end to my misery, I thought I should have died with hunger in the desert places, where I could find no fruits; besides, as I was not accustomed to fly, I made but very little progress in my way; every body who saw me

run

run after me to lay hold on me, I had no retreat but on the top of trees, where I was not very safe from the naughty little boys who attacked me with stones, or climbed up after me. All my fatigues returned upon me, as soon as I got into this enchanted abode; the infernal Dentua had followed me without my perceiving it, I did not know her, under the form she had taken; she arrived presently after me on the confines of Cachemira, she had followed me every where, without taking notice of any thing; I was so accustomed to see myself admired by every body who saw me, that I was not surprised at her attention; I knew how to get out of the way, when they came to near me. As I was embarrassed enough, about what would become of me, although I was in a country where a hundred millions of parrots might live like kings, I was often very thoughtful: she took notice of it, and looking kindly upon me, while I was upon the top of a tree; what pity it is, says she, that so fine a parrot should stray about, without doubt it belongs to some king, or to some beauty, who is now vexing at the loss of him: How do I know but he belongs to the most beautiful of beautiful women; but if he had belonged to Luizanta, he would never have

have preferred his liberty to the pleasure of seeing her; if he was not so wild, says she, seeing that I descended lower, from branch to branch, to listen to her, he would let me lay hold of him, and it would be the finest present her father's kingdom could furnish Luizanta with, in giving her the finest bird in the world. How happy must he be, continues the flattering force-refs, to be the delight of the finest creature in the universe; and who among mortals would not change conditions with a parrot who would every day have an opportunity of seeing treasures, which beauties do not conceal from birds. The insinuating Dentua knew to whom she spoke; I was so transported with what she said, that as soon as she stretched out her finger to me, when she had done speaking, I sprung as nimble as I could upon it. I repented of my being in such a hurry; I saw her looks change the moment she had me in her power, her eyes seemed to sparkle; she squeezed me with one hand, and wrung my neck with the other, I could not comprehend the meaning of this transport, but before I could find it out the wand of Serena discovered to us the horrible Dentua concealed under this figure.

She

She resisted then, happily for me, the first motions which vengeance or fury had inspired her with ; it suited her designs to spare me, nevertheless she took care that I should not escape till our arrival at this court. This day was the beginning of my happiness ; my eyes when in the form of a parrot sustained the fatal lustre of those of the adorable Luizanta : And by a charm unknown to me, people who dared not to look at her at twenty yards distance, need only take me in their hands to look at her at their ease. I will not speak here of those transports of joy I felt at the innocent caresses she bestowed upon me. A thousand occasions, the circumstances of which I shall not mention, brought to pass what the forcerefs had promised me. It was under my form of a parrot that I was too well payed by being with Luizanta, for those horrors, which the tenderness of the forcerefs inspired me with. At last I began under this form, to please the finest eyes in the world ; too happy, if that which I have resumed could be as agreeable. The handsome Phenix left off speaking ; and although Luizanta had blushed more than once toward the end of his discourse, her beautiful eyes did not neglect to assure him, he would lose nothing in being no longer a parrot.

The

The Caliph thought the adventures of his son-in-law diverting enough ; he knew he had no inclination to have the crooked princefs who was offered him in Circassia. But Seigneur Phenix, says he to him, lay your hand on your heart ; if by good fortune you had not been changed into a parrot, had not you rather have married the forcerefs, her mother, her grandmother, and all the Dentuas in the world, than to have let them have killed you as a fool ? As to me, I might perhaps be as delicate as another, but after, all it is but to live. Let us talk no more of what you had done ; I hope at least that the kingdom of Cachemira, which you may have when you will, will indemnify you a little for the refusal you have made of the Infanta of Circassia. In respect to your brother Poinçon, although he may not be so richly married, he seems to me to be so well pleased with his wife, and his mother-in-law Serena, that he will not envy you at all, for with his knowledge, his little territories, and what Serena may one day leave him, he will be very well contented. The modest Thornflower, who without ambition had wished to be heiress to the universe, blushed at what the Caliph had been saying ; she was not ashamed that a person so wonderful as

Serena,

Serena, had brought it to life ; but it put her into some confusion, when they took notice of all the advantages which Luizanta brought to her spouse, and which Tarare had refused for her. The equitable Serena saw her embarrassment, and knew her thoughts, then demanding a short hearing in her turn. Caliph of Cachemira, says she, you who without doubt have some obligations to Tarare, I will make you sensible that he shall have no room to envy the settlement of his brother. You have seen the preference which he hath given to the dying Thorn-flower, to the frightful Thorn-flower, and to say every thing of the memory of the Thorn-flower, to the possession of Luizanta in all the lustre of her glory. Judge if in the state you now see her, he ought not to be content with his fortune ; but know that Serena is not the sister of the infamous Dentua, nor the Thorn-flower the daughter of Serena. Here's both our histories.

THE

T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
S E R E N A.

BETWEEN the Tygris and Euphrates there is a vast extent of plains, whose fertility nothing can equal, except the kingdom of Cachemira : My father was sovereign of it ; he had searched the deepest of any mortal into the most hidden secrets of nature ; but as he gave himself entirely up to speculation, he neglected the government of his dominions, to inform himself how the stars governed themselves above there. This country watered by two of the greatest rivers in the world, was so rich that his subjects became too much so : The most powerful were sensible of their own strength, and knew his weakness. Every one settled himself to his own liking, while their prince far from giving himself any trouble about it, was delighted in getting rid of a country that had never a mountain in it ; his mind was entirely set on completing himself in that kind of know-

knowledge, for which he paid so dear. He quitted his territories to go in search of it, and while he ranged from mountain to mountain to entertain himself with the motions of the heavens, others quietly took possession of what he forsook upon earth. This news did not move him at all, love alone was capable of it, and it was not the least effort of his power to triumph over a genius so lost in abstracted speculations. I don't know how it came to pass that he quitted these mountains to descend into Circassia, but it was there that an inclination more lovely than what had influenced him till now, gave him a liking to mortal beauties. He grew amorous, and the most beautiful of the Circassians did not disdain to give her hand to a prince deprived of his territories.

I do not know whether she repented of it, for instead of thinking about his establishment, he hurried to climb again to the top of these mountains; she accompanied him; and it was upon the mountain that Tarare and the Thorn-flower passed, that my father fixed his wandering speculations. He chose for his retreat that part of the mountain, which rocks and precipices render frightful, he there set about raking into the intrails of the earth, after having
learned

learned all that human reason is capable of in the celestial regions. He presently acquired a degree of knowledge scarce attainable from that prodigious application, in which future generations saw so many persons of real sense become visionaries, and so much solid treasures dissipated, to run after an imaginary good. The accomplishment of this work left him nothing to wish for ; he changed at his pleasure all kind of metals into gold : And the invible powers dispersed throughout the air obeyed his commands ; he made by their assistance, in the midst of this mountain, a palace, where things of the meanest use glitter with gold, or sparkle with precious stones. It was in this new habitation I came into the world, and the year after my mother had another daughter there ; I had my father's inclination for the sciences, and my sister had my mother's with her beauty ; but as wonderful as this retreat was, my mother and sister grew weary of solitude : One wanted to see again a country which had given her birth, the other wished to make a tour into those delicious plains situated between the Tygris and Euphrates, which her father had abandoned for the desert, where she waisted away with grief. He perceived it, and in spite of all
the

the compliments they made that they would not leave him, my mother went for Circassia, where my sister accompanied her, very well pleased that she did not appear to bid us farewell. Money cost nothing to a man possessed of the secret, of which he was master ; and the magnificent equipage with which they arrived in my mother's country, was worthy of the former fortune of her spouse.

The king of Circassia no sooner saw my sister than he found her worthy of a considerable preference to all the Circassians ; the most beautiful were vexed to the highest degree, to see a stranger come to rob them of an heart which they vainly disputed among themselves, some pined away with envy, others burst with anger, but my poor mother died with joy at it. My father learned these two pieces of news at one time, and received them like a true philosopher ; for my part, I confess, that the joy of one helped very much to comfort me for the grief of the other, I thought of nothing else but completing myself in the sciences, in which I made a sufficient progress, and which I perceived my relish of increased in proportion as I found myself acquire new lights. At length my father, after having communicated all those things
of

of which my mind was capable, willingly suffered himself to die, to seek in another world what he was not able to discover in this : He suffered himself, I say, for with the secrets he was possessed of, he could have lived as long as he pleased. I inherited his treasures and a part of his knowledge, but of all his gifts this wand which you see is infinitely the most valuable ; it is composed of a conjunction of all the secret virtues of minerals and talismans ; by it I command the elements, I discover the very bottom of truth, what is to happen, presents itself to my mind, and I recollect what is passed, my father forbade me to ascend the top of the mountain which we inhabit ; a curiosity which I had never had before, tormented me, the moment he forbade me, and as soon as he had closed his eyes, I satisfied it. I then contemplated with astonishment the enchanting plains of the happy Cachemira ; I carried away what I thought proper of the immense treasures, with which my father had enriched the caverns of this mountain ; and for fear the number of people who should come to consult me, should interrupt that quiet, or study which I wanted to be mistress of, I rendered my dwelling inaccessible to all whom I did not choose to see.

I there enjoyed all that happiness which tranquillity of mind gives to mortals, and far from envying the settlement of my sister on the throne of Circassia, nothing disturbed that happy peace which my mind enjoyed, but my uneasiness for her.

As she had three daughters, successively, I consulted my books on their destiny, as well as her's. I learned that she would have no more children, and that her spouse would soon leave her regent of his territories; I found in the horoscope of the eldest of her daughters, that her life was threatened with some disaster; but it was in vain that I tried every method to know the particulars; I only knew that an enemy with a power, almost equal to mine, would persecute her; I had recourse to my wand, and having run the end of it over a skin of parchment which I opened on the table, it traced there of itself the horrible figure of Dentua; it described the situation of her dwelling, her spells, and her dispositions; I was shocked to understand that the most horrible of creatures, had still more inclination to love, than to hatred or cruelty, and that death was the only resource of those who disdained to secure themselves from it, by a still more dismal complaisance; nevertheless I

discovered with grief, that while she was mistress of the ringing mare, and the luminous hat, neither my abilities nor enchantments had any effect against her's.

I learned by my wand, that she had a son about the same age of the eldest of my sister's daughters; and I, in no wise doubted, but that her design was to take away the heiress of Circassia, to give her to this son; therefore I wanted to take her under my protection; my sister sent her home secretly, but this precaution had like to have made me lose her; the sorcerers found means to take her a way, almost from between my arms, the very moment she came to put herself in them. I had endeavoured to make her pass for my daughter: the cruel Dentua did not suffer herself to be imposed on, and all my vigilance was ineffectual to defend the poor little Thorn-flower against the inhuman sorcerers. Indeed, caliph of Cachimira, this very Thorn-flower, whom you see, and whom you was in such a hurry to burn, is heiress of the kingdom of Circassia; she was taken from me, I don't know how, nor could my art, nor all the powers in the world, have delivered her from this sorcerers, if Tarare had not undertaken it; this glory was reserved

served by the fates, for the most ingenious, as well as most faithful, of lovers ; I knew that these two qualities must meet in him, who should take away the mare, and the hat of the sorceress, but I did not know where to find a man of his character. About this time Luizanta came into the world, and my books, which I consulted on her birth, having discovered to me, what was one day to happen to this beauty, I spread a secret contagion on the growing lustre of her eyes, well assured that they would have recourse to me for a remedy for them, and entirely resolved not to grant it, but on condition they should set the Thorn-flower free with all the treasures of the sorceress.

The curiosity of Tarare, happily led him to me, before he went to court, and what I discovered of his genius and sentiments, made me hope that if he dared to attempt the adventure, he would not be unworthy of succeeding in it. I had still a better opinion, when I saw him return at a certain time to consult me ; I did not see him perplexing himself at all about what I proposed as a reward for the assistance they required of me, although I had particularised all the danger of it ; and asked him if he knew any one, at your

court, rash enough to do a piece of service to Luifanta at this price ; it is not, says he, an excess of ambition, or love for enterprises, but the hope alone of being approved of by you, is a sufficient motive to dare to attempt any thing without any other incitement than the glory of it. I shall not tell you the joy this answer, from a man whom I began to esteem very much, gave me ; I did not at all doubt, but it was him whom the destinies had marked out for the deliverer of the Thorn-flower. I told him I should not be against him, if he understood what might, perhaps, be still more dangerous, than what I had represented it ; he was not at all moved by it ; I kept my word to him, and although I could not always assist him, my genius hath often inspired his in the execution ; but after all it is to his understanding, firmness, and above all to his constancy, that the glory of it is due.

While he was upon the road toward the forcerefs, I employed my wand to satisfy my curiosity about the Thorn-flower ; it traced out her form, and the sufferings she was to undergo in life ; I found her form capable of recompencing whatever was undertaken on her account : I did not believe

I say it was necessary to touch the heart of Tarare for her, if her mind answered the charms of her person; but I confess, I inspired the Thorn-flower with favourable dispositions toward him, which she might not have felt at first sight, but which he had too much merit not to have caused himself, in her, in a little time, without my assistance. I was extremely rejoiced when I knew of his arrival in this kingdom; and although there was a little cruelty in rendering my abode inaccessible, when he was desirous to bring the Thorn-flower to it, I did it to try his constancy toward her, to the very utmost, and to know if he was worthy of her; you have seen his constancy triumph thro' trials, which deserve that he should reign on the throne of a princess, who reigns so entirely in his heart.

I had a long time foreseen the revolution which was to happen in Circassia; but though I foresaw it, I was not permitted to prevent it; all that I could do, was to save the queen my sister and the three daughters, who were left her, in that extremity, which exposed them to the fury of the tyrant; and to conceal them from his pursuit, I made choice of a retreat in a place hardly known towards the

confines of this kingdom. There, always being in fear of his finding them out, I made an enchantment by which the queen appeared changed into a crow, as soon as any stranger happened accidentally to come there, and her daughters with their companions into magpies, without its appearing to each other, that they had changed their form. This prince, is the illusion which hath caused so much surprise, when you accidentally went one after the other, where they were. Whilst Tarare sought me in vain with the Thorn-flower, I knew under what disguise Dentua was also arrived; I knew her designs; but I knew that her power was limited since she had no longer the mare and the hat, and that it would be easy to prevent all her attempts against my life. I then delivered up the Thorn-flower, for a time, to the cruelties which attended her upon her arrival, by the means of the seneschal's impertinent widow and the inhuman Dentua. The Thorn-flower ought not to belong to any body but the most faithful of lovers. What greater proof of his constancy could there be, than when she was exposed to his eyes in the frightful ugliness, which the fascinations of the sorceress had reduced her to, at the time the hand of Luizanta with the throne of Cachemira was offered to him.

I did

I did not detain him a long time, when he returned with the luminous hat and the mare : I kept, however, my word in the remedy for those fine eyes which had caused so much havock ; but although Tarare returned to his dear Thorn-flower, I knew she would have need of more powerful assistance than this. I employed all the Genii, which my art subjects to my will, to be watchful for the security of his life, till my arrival, being resolved to follow him very closely ; I deferred my departure to the very last ; and I began to repent it ; for the moment I went to mount the ringer, the most agreeable and the most desired obstacles, came in the way to oppose my departure.

Three couriers from Circassia arrived an hour after each other, who brought me the surprising news of the re-establishment of my sister. The first informed me, that the usurper had perished by an insurrection as sudden as the revolution, which had placed him on the throne. The second confirmed this news, and added, that the enraged populace had not even spared his poor hump-back daughter. The last gave an ample detail of the acclamations, joy, and the eager transports with which the queen and her daughters were attended

ed into the capital of Circassia ; and this last courier was dispatched by herself, whom the council and grandees were going to meet. So Seigneur, Tarare is not so badly married as you believed ; for though the Thorn-flower was in haste to see a man reign, whom perfect love and inviolable fidelity rendered worthy of it ; she will now find her territories in a peaceable situation on her arrival, her mother and sister only uneasy through their impatience to receive a daughter and a sovereign, whom they had believed to be lost ; and the whole people commonly desirous of change, will make no difficulty to load with their good wishes and benedictions a queen adorned with such qualities, as the Thorn-flower.

The recital of Serena was no sooner finished when the caliph, who was busied in making some compliments to Serena, and some excuses to the Thorn-flower, was interrupted, being told they had served up the feast. The entertainment was the most superb that was ever seen ; but it appeared of a tiresome length to two princes, who only feasted themselves with tender looks. At length the so much wished for hour arrived ; the god of Hymen illuminated all his torches to light

Phenix

Phenix to Luizanta's apartment, where the Caliph wished them good night; and in that which they had prepared for the Thorn-flower, there was the most faithful of all lovers, as well as the happiest of men.

Aurora came forth a long time before the end of this tale; but Dinarzade made a jest of her growing lustre, and the sultan less pressed at this time, to take his place at the council board, had thought it good that the sun should rise before him; the sultane's was, as has been seen in the beginning of these tales, the most beautiful sultane's that ever was; he turned his eyes with great tenderness towards her, while the prime vizier walked before him with his scepter, it is said that he had never perceived it, so much did he appear quite lost in examining all the charms of her face, and considering that with all her beauties she had a genius enriched with the Arabian tales; he went up to her, and took off her robe de chambre, as a mark of his tenderness and affection toward her. Too happy, cried he, too happy, the shepherds of our country, who can without constraint, spend their days with their shepherdesses; what pleasure to employ
all

all the moments of one's life in looking at those beautiful eyes, which shine so bright on me ! Dinarzade, who did not comprehend any thing of these exclamations, nor of this ceremony, took the liberty of asking him what he had to say about these shepherds ; lie down again Seigneur, says she, instead of saying all these impertinencies to a goddess whom you are about to make kiss the nail of your left foot, and at these words, she wanted to take away the robe de chambre, but he would not consent to it, till she brought him his lute, with which he played so long, that the sultaneſs grew weary and her ſiſter impatient ; after this gallant exploit, he went into his apartment, and from his apartment to his council to order the magnificent preparations of this great day, waiting for the happy night which was to put him in poſſeſſion of the moſt complete beauty ; he expected this night, with impatience, as we may ſuppoſe ; and as ſoon as it arrived, he repaired to the apartment of the ſultaneſs, followed by the officers of the crown ; but inſtead of wiſhing them good night, after being undreſſed, he turned towards the prince of Trebizonde, to order him to tell all the adventures which had befall him, from
that

that of the pyramid and golden horse, to that when for the first time, he saw the beautiful eyes of Dinarzade, at the bottom of the sea. The amorous prince would willingly have been excused a recital which must last all the night ; but as he knew the sultan his master was not in jest when he spoke about tales ; he began his, as you will see in the next volume.

The End of VOL. I.

